

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, April 11, 2013

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## Hollywood star

Nicole Kidman begins filming local author's book

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## Fem-ale time

Beer festival is aiming to bring in more women

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## Wheel winner

Jordanne returns with a tennis doubles victory

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## Steering lock road rage man avoids jail

A MOTORIST, who hit another man with a metal steering lock in a road rage attack, avoided jail after a court heard he was due to be a father and was a carer for his sister.

Mohammed Yousaf was told by Recorder Mr Adam Feast that people who arm themselves with weapons in road rage attacks should normally go to prison.

But he sentenced 30-year-old Yousaf, of Dudley Road, Tividale, to nine months suspended for two years.

He was also ordered to do 200 hours of unpaid community work and to pay £200 compensation to his victim, Luke Guy, whom he hit around the head and ribs.

The attack, which happened in Hall Street, Dudley, at the junction with North Street, on June 8 last year, ended only when Mr Guy's pregnant girlfriend, Terri Winder, threw herself across him to protect him.

Yousaf denied racially aggravated assault and having an offensive weapon. At Wolverhampton Crown Court, he was cleared of racially aggravated assault but found guilty of an alternative assault charge and having the weapon.

During his trial, he admitted he hit Mr Guy with a metal steering lock but claimed it was in self defence.

## HMV jobs in rescue move

HMV has been rescued in a £50 million deal that will help to preserve 2,500 jobs.

Britain's last remaining independent music retail chain will be salvaged in a plan that will keep more than 140 shops open - likely to include the branch at the Merry Hill centre, Dudley. The move is too late to save the branch in Walsall which has already shut.

But the news is likely to mean other branches including one in Wolverhampton will be rescued. Specialist restructuring firm Hilco has signed a binding agreement.

# CRACKDOWN ON SPEEDING CARS

by Andrew Turton

A POLICE crackdown has caught motorists travelling at speeds approaching 90mph along 40mph stretches of a busy route through Halesowen.

Officers launched a crackdown following complaints and with speed guns caught drivers travelling at more than double the speed limit in 40 mph zones on the A456 between Hagley and Halesowen and near a popular athletics and cycling stadium.

Drivers clocking speeds of up to 85mph have appeared before Dudley Magistrates and others issued with Fixed Penalty Notices. Calls for the crackdown, especially on speeding along Manor Way near the Sandvik steel plant, prompted the move. Officers took to the roads for the latest enforcement scheme last weekend close to the Manor Abbey Stadium.

## Council needs foster parents as children in care up by 21pc

A LEADING Tory councillor has called for measures to attract more foster carers after figures revealed a 21 per cent rise in the number of Dudley children taken into care during the past three years.

Dudley Council is looking after 740 children compared to around 480 in 2010. The authority now plans to take on eight additional staff to work with parents whose children have been taken into care to provide an in-house "supervised contact" service. This is presently provided by an outside agency. Staff will help families meet and work through issues in "family-friendly" surroundings.

But Councillor Liz Walker, Conservative spokesman on Integrated Children's Services, said she was not convinced the move was the right way forward.

And she believed measures to "cut red tape" were needed to attract more foster carers in the borough.

"I was disappointed to hear so many children in the borough have gone into care over this period," she said. "It shows Dudley is a very rigorous authority but the cost is phenomenal. Measures are needed to bring in more high quality foster carers."

Councillor Tim Crumpton, cabinet member for children's services, said: "It will always be a last resort to put children into care."

Ward councillors have also raised fears over the safety of joggers and youngsters using Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club.

Sgt Martin Hall, neighbourhood supervisor for Halesowen, said: "After a number of local residents raised the issue of speeding along the A456 with us we carried out a speed check in the area."

"As with any road, excess speed or dangerous driving can pose a very serious risk to other road users and so, where there are areas of concern, we aim to carry out regular enforcement operations."

## Carriageway

"To date a number of drivers have been issued with Fixed Penalty Notices for exceeding the speed limit on both sides of the carriageway, as well as a number of other drivers appearing before Dudley Magistrates as a result of speeds up to 85 miles an hour being recorded."

He said 40 mph limits had been introduced by Dudley Council in 2009 to improve safety for people using the road including local cyclists and pedestrians. Sgt Hall said speed checks will continue.

Halesowen councillor Ken Turner said he was keen to see speeders brought before the courts.

"I want to see these people brought before the courts and sentenced because what we must remember is if they are sentenced that is effective to deter others from doing it," he said.

Fellow Halesowen councillor David Vickers added: "Why they do those speeds I don't know. Maybe they still think they are on the motorway but it's not on."

"There are young people coming in and out of the stadium and those speeds would be dangerous for people crossing."

## Walk in memory of Christina



Tribute - people take part in a memorial walk for Christina Edkins in Leasowes Park in Halesowen who was stabbed to death on a bus while on her way to school



Victim Christina Edkins

DOZENS of friends and family of stabbing victim Christina Edkins turned out for a three-mile fundraising walk.

Walkers, who wore T-shirts with the slogan Walk With Christina and purple ribbons in her memory, did two circuits around Leasowes Park, Mucklow Hill, Halesowen, at the weekend, near to where the 16-year-old went to school at Leasowes High.

In total they raised about £100 which will go towards a memorial in the park or in Birmingham, where Christina was stabbed to death on her way to school on the bus on Hagley Road on March 7.

The event was organised by Jon Kelley, a friend of the Birmingham teenager. He said: "I came up with the idea after a protest, which we were due to hold a couple of weeks ago, was cancelled. It's been a good day, everyone was really motivated. Fundraisers hoped to spread a positive message further after getting involved with pressure group Anti-Knife UK. Phillip Simelane, aged 22, of Walsall, has appeared at Birmingham Crown Court charged with Christina's murder."

## £3m site will train chefs of the future

STUDENTS will be serving up meals to visitors at a new £3 million education and heritage centre in Dudley under plans to create a training kitchen and restaurant.

Dudley Canal Trust (Trips), which is working to open a new canal-side attraction by autumn 2014, has teamed up with Dudley College.

Catering students enrolled on college courses will be able to cook for visitors, corporate clients and wedding parties as the site has a licence for marriages to take place in the caverns.

The new centre is called The Portal, taking its name from the entrance to a canal tunnel. It will provide the tens of thousands of visitors to the site every year with information on the Black Country's canal heritage.

The Portal will be built at the Dudley Canal Tunnel entrance at Todds End, off Birmingham New Road.

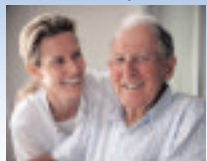
The partnership with Dudley College will see the opening of a commercial training kitchen and restaurant. Principal Lowell Williams said: "Many of our students will benefit from this unique partnership so we are really excited about the opportunities working with Dudley Canal Trust can offer." Dudley Council approved plans for the centre in January.

## Deal to pay for service

HEALTH chiefs in Dudley have struck a new £60,000 deal with an award-winning support service to help adults improve mental well-being.

Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group agreed to fund a one-year contract with the Big White Wall service, an online, anonymous service supporting those who experience emotional or psychological distress. The service is based on bringing together an online community of people to talk about their own mental health.

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## NEWS

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## Hit-and-run driver gave himself up

A DUDLEY driver has admitted failing to stop after knocking down 21-year-old Tom Cox from the Black Country who died hours later.

Ben Davies was driving the car which hit Mr Cox, of Tipton, as he walked to a bus stop in Sedgley to meet his girlfriend on his birthday.

Mr Cox, a former Willingsworth High School student, suffered head injuries and died the following morning. Davies, who admitted tak-

ing cocaine the day before the crash, failed to stop but handed himself in to police 13 hours later. At Dudley Magistrates Court last week, Davies, of Old Park Road, Dudley, pleaded guilty to failing to stop at the scene of an accident - a crime which carries a maximum sentence of six months in prison.

Mrs Sukhi Rai, prosecuting, said 25-year-old Davies had been driving along Dudley Road towards Dudley when Mr Cox was hit at 11pm on November 17. She said the road had a 30mph limit and it appeared Mr Cox had emerged from beside a line of parked cars.

She said: "He was found on the pavement with serious head injuries and taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Despite medical intervention, his injuries unfortunately proved fatal. Thirteen hours later, Mr Davies went to Dudley police."

After his arrest, he again admitted his part in the accident and he'd taken cocaine the day before but experts were unable to say whether this would have affected his driving.

Mr Lee Preston, defending, said: "This is a dreadful incident but we're not dealing with this man for causing the death of this unfortunate young man. We're dealing with him for failing to stop."

Davies was bailed until April 29 when he will be sentenced.

## Sons site campaign starting to grow

THE campaign to reopen a former Sons of Rest building in Halesowen has gathered pace after a business plan was lodged with council bosses.

Campaigners have formed a new company called Hasbury Community Association to put pressure on Dudley Council.

Officials had proposed selling the building, near Alexandra Road and Wall Well, and put it on the market last year. But residents say they want a new community hub and pleaded for a future for the premises built on land donated to the town in 1947 by the then mayor Lionel Rose.

Now campaigners are pushing to raise £5,000 to kickstart a charity to manage the centre.

Councillor Donella Russell, who is heading up the scheme with campaigner Ian Cooper, said: "We are raising money to help with the fight to keep this building open and for the use of the community."

"The business plan has now gone in and the fundraising has started to provide the centre with the stability it initially requires."

## Extra hours for air crew

THREE lifesaving Midlands Air Ambulance aircraft will fly an extra 60 hours per week at a cost of £50,000 to cover vital shifts during longer summer days.

Air crew based at RAF Cosford, near Wolverhampton, Tatenhill, near Burton, and Strensall, south of Worcester, will be on alert for emergencies from 7am until at least 9pm seven days a week.

It is the first time the charity has operated its entire fleet of helicopters at the same time, instead of using a shift system, to cover the service.

## Pizza fight lost

PROTESTERS have lost their campaign against opening a pizza takeaway in Halesowen despite fears over an increase in crime. They claim gangs of youths will be attracted to Hurst Green Shopping Centre, off Woodbury Road, in the evenings. More than 260 people signed a petition against the plan.

## Lenny relieved wrangle on his freedom is over

COMEDIAN Lenny Henry revealed his relief after rowing councillors "made up their minds" about bestowing his Freedom of Dudley honour as he prepared to take to the Midland stage in his latest play.

## The future of market now under threat, claim

THE future of Dudley's market could be threatened if multi-million pound new supermarkets are built in the town centre, it is feared.

Three rival regeneration schemes have been given the go-ahead by councillors.

They include the Porters Field project which will see Cavendish House demolished to make way for a modern store and a stylish public piazza.

While a £20 million scheme has been earmarked for the New Mill Gate area of the town centre between Flood Street and King Street by developer Commercial Estates Group. Both projects, which will bring hundreds of new jobs, were approved by Dudley Council.

But Len Lenihan, chairman of Dudley Market Traders' Association, said: "I don't believe it's what the town needs. I don't think it's a good idea to have these developments on the outskirts of the town centre taking shoppers away from the High Street and the market."

But councillors welcomed the developments.

Councillor Tim Wright, said: "We may get one, we may get two but if we don't approve them we aren't going to get any."

Councillors were at loggerheads over the decision to award the civic honour, which was only previously given to long-standing councillors or other notable residents.

But after months of wrangling, a committee of councillors agreed new rules around the award which opened the doors to the nomination for the former Tiswas star.

This came despite continued opposition from some members including Conservative group leader Councillor Patrick Harley.

However, Mr Henry, who has returned to the region this week to take a leading role in a new theatre production, says despite the fuss he is delighted to receive his title as a Freedom of the Borough.

## Discussions

"It is a lovely thing to receive," he said. "I'm grateful they made up their minds. I had heard about their discussions over 12 months ago and I realise there had been a deep conversation about it. But I'm really pleased with it," he said.

Mr Henry, aged 54, grew up in Douglas Road close to Buffery Park in Dudley and attended the former Blue Coat School, in Kates Hill, before he rose to fame as winner of television talent show New Faces in 1975.

He hopes they can enjoy the day when he becomes a Freeman of Dudley later this year. "I'm not sure yet what you receive for it," he said. "I'm a CBE and that means I supposedly allowed down into a submarine."

## Can't get e-Nerf of retro blasters



Mayor of Dudley Melvyn Mottram and Tim Rusby, MD of Paragon Creative, in the arena

FAMILIES wanting to relive some of their youth have been making the most of a new adventure attraction at Merry Hill Shopping Centre.

The Quest includes something unique for the UK - a battle arena where contestants fight it out using Nerf blasters.

The Nerf gun was one of the most popular toys in the 1990s, with millions of youngsters around the world having fun duelling with soft foam bullets.

Now fans of the retro toy can relive their childhood in a paintball-style combat arena

at Quest, Rowena Lee, from Quest, said: "The combat arena is not just for kids. Nerf is such a retro game with such a cult following, and so a lot of people who grew up in the 90s are coming down because it was something they loved."

"We are the first Nerf combat arena in the UK, and it's something that's come over from America so we have a lot of American followers on our Facebook page."

Merry Hill Centre bosses said the adventure attraction had been received "really well".

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## £234,000 loans go to firms

MORE than £234,000 of loans has been shared out among small businesses in Dudley from council officials to help secure jobs during tough economic times.

The cash comes from the £1million Dudley Business Loan Fund, which was set up for small and medium-sized companies in the borough.

It can be used by firms which have been struggling to get loans from banks in recent months to expand their businesses.

Council officials today estimated the cash had been used to create more than 20 jobs and safeguard a further 61 positions since the project launched in August last year.

The fund was set up in partnership with the Black Country Reinvestment Society to support small businesses.

Dudley Council's deputy leader, Councillor Shaikat Ali, who is also regeneration boss in the borough, welcomed the news.

He added: "Small businesses are a vital part of the regeneration jigsaw for the borough and I'm delighted to see we have already been able to help so many create and secure jobs. We will continue to lead the way."

## Branch calls for helpers

THE Stourbridge and Halesowen branch of the National Childbirth Trust (NCT) needs more volunteers to help run activities.

The group has 22 local mothers and fathers who co-ordinate sessions, including a "Bumps and Babies" group. "Speed Bumps" meetings for parents-to-be and social events.

Liz Jones, co-chairwoman of the branch, said: "Team roles are varied, interesting and fun - you can use different skills and there's something for everyone, even if you only have a small amount of time to offer."

Contact Liz on 0844 243 6283 or Halesowen-Stourbridge-NCT@hotmail.co.uk

The branch's annual meeting will be on April 17 at 8pm in the Community Room at Stourbridge Fire Station, Parkfield Road.

## History meeting

WOODSIDE Memory and History Group will meet on April 15 from 7pm to 9pm at Woodside Community Centre, Holly Hall.

# Travel firm in tax wrangle aims to grow



The Parry People Mover shuttle

A CRISIS-HIT Black Country transport company has pledged it will not be derailed by a wrangle over £70,000 VAT - and will see through plans that could create hundreds more jobs for the region.

The firm behind the highly successful Stourbridge Parry People Mover rail bus, which shuttles 500,000 passengers a year between the town's two rail stations, has a new £700,000 order from Turkey for a slightly

larger vehicle. Parry People Movers Ltd, in Cradley Heath, is also on the brink of clinching an order worth more than £1 million from America.

And the company is also in line for £1m funding through a regional fund to invest in proposals for a vehicle that would double the size of its People Mover, which is powered by a 2.3 litre car engine.

John Parry, the chairman of associate company JPM Parry,

said that if everything came to fruition, the Parry People Movers' 10-strong workforce could increase to 50 and hundreds more jobs could be created at companies which are making components for the company.

These would include WDB, at Halesowen; Stourbridge firm Scandus, and Trailways, Bloxwich.

Parry's has been granted a 56-day reprieve at the High Court in London after an attempt by HM

Revenue and Customs to wind it up over a £70,000 VAT debt.

Mr Parry said that he was confident that, with the support of its shareholders, the company would overcome its present difficulty and carry on with its plans.

"We won't be derailed," he said. "We have the full support of shareholders - they are enthusiastic to see the project through in spite of the financial difficulties we have been going through."

# Store raid gang's reign of terror is brought to an end

**FOUR men admitted their role in robberies in the Black Country including one at a store in Dudley after a dramatic roof top arrest.**

The masked armed gang left staff terrified at eight shops in a four month spree which saw them snatch cigarettes, spirits, cash and other goods. They were stopped as two were caught trying to grab cash and up to £10,000 of cigarettes from a Co-op shop in Overfield Road, Russells Hall, Dudley, as it prepared to open on September 22. Police found 22-year-old Jake Williams on the roof and Andrew Scanlon, 23, at the back of the store.

Anthony Everitt, 35, and Stuart Plant, 24, were arrested soon after.

The breakthrough came as detectives investigated 26 robberies on convenience stores and all-night garages in which up to £50,000 of cigarettes and about £20,000 cash was stolen.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court Williams of Meldon Drive, Everitt, of Wallace Road and Plant of Daley Road, all Bradley, Wolverhampton, admitted conspiring with others to commit robberies between May 22 and September 23.

Scanlon, 23, of Oak Road, Tipton admitted a single robbery charge at the Overfield Road Co-op. All four defendants were remanded in custody for sentence on May 7. Judge Nicholas Webb called for a pre-sentence report for the hearing on Scanlon who was of previous good character.

by Helen Brown

For months they terrorised shop keepers in the region - threatening staff with weapons to make them hand over cash and cigarettes.

After covering their faces they would rush into the store they had targeted waving an axe or hammer to ensure victims did not resist.

They would then stuff bags with packets of cigarettes and steal cash.

Police were alerted to the raid in progress at Dudley where a four-strong masked and armed gang had pounced minutes earlier as staff arrived.

Terrified workers were threatened with an axe or hammer and were bundled into the store.

The mobile phone of a worker was smashed as staff were forced to open the safe and the gang prepared to flee. Then police swooped.

Not all gang members were involved in all the robberies.



Nicole Kidman shooting on set for new movie Before I go to Sleep

## Nicole in the Capital filming top book

NICOLE Kidman has been working in London filming the movie adaptation of a Dudley author's debut novel.

The 45-year-old Hollywood superstar was in the capital during shoots for Before I go to Sleep the book of which was written by Steve Watson of Stourbridge.

She plays Christine Lucas, who wakes up to find she does not recognise her life and has no idea who her husband is.

The film is shaping up to be one of the biggest releases of the year after the best-selling novel captured the imagination of readers across the globe.

It is scheduled for release later this year and the book of the same name has sold more than 350,000 copies.

The rights were gained by director Ridley Scott, who drafted in stars Kidman and Colin Firth to play the lead roles.

Mr Watson, aged 41, who grew up in Wordsley, started writing the book as a hobby while working as an audiology specialist and now admits he may never return to his old job.

The book shot to number one in the Sunday Times paperback chart.

## NEWS in brief

### Auditions open for a pantomime

A BLACK Country youth pantomime group is seeking performers to bring its next production to life.

The Young Ones Pantomime Company will perform Robinson Crusoe in January and will be holding auditions on May 12.

Anyone who is between seven and 18 is welcome to come and show their talent. The pantomime, which will be performed from January 26 to February 1, at Nether-ton Arts Centre. For more information contact Chris Sykes on 01384 895266.

### Massive plans given go-ahead

MULTI-MILLION pound regeneration plans have been approved by Dudley Council planners.

The Porters Field project which will see the demolition of Cavendish House to create a public piazza won the backing of councillors.

Plans for redeveloping Falcon House in the New Mill Gate area of the town centre between Flood Street and King Street for a separate £20million supermarket scheme were also granted approval.

### Organ music and coffee mornings

ORGAN playing will be on the agenda at coffee mornings in St John's Church in Hagley during summer.

The first will be on May 8, with organist Michael Jones and Eugene Stollenburg speaking about the Ifakara Baking Project, Tanzania. Jean Hadley will talk about Abraham's Oasis Orphanage in Ethiopia, while Richard Hall will play on June 12.

### Village hall will hold funds sale

A VILLAGE hall charity just outside Stourbridge is holding a table-top sale to raise funds.

Stourton Village Hall, in Bridgnorth Road, Stourton needs to make money to pay for maintenance costs.

The sale will be on April 13 from 9.30am until 12.30pm.

A few stall tables remain available for £10. Call 01384 872073.

### New Sikh station

A NEW radio station has been launched from a Sikh Gurdwara in Wolverhampton. Gulshan Radio will be available on 87.9FM after its launch from the Guru Nanak Sansang Gurdwara.

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## NEWS

THE BEST  
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I WENT into town, ears blue with cold, to buy a winter hat, one of those woolly items, much favoured by Al Pacino and New York street thugs. The woolly hat is probably the only knitted garment ever to inspire fear. Sadly, I had reckoned without the seasonal shelf-stocking policy of clothes shops. For commercial purposes, winter is officially over. There is not a winter hat to be seen but the shelves are full of straw hats for something called summer.

COME to think of it, I recall another knitted garment that inspired fear. It was my first swimming costume, made by my mother when I was five. Things tended to fall out.

THE Government admits it has spent £18 million on confidentiality agreements to buy the silence of nearly 5,000 departing employees. These gagging orders can cost up to £400,000. In the bad old days the Mafia achieved much the same result with a bullet in the head and a dead canary stuffed in the victim's mouth to indicate he had been "singing." This solution was not only effective but cheap. And also cheap.

I WONDER how many millions of us watched the "emotional" press conference of Mick and Mairead Philpott and suspected, right from the start, that they were guilty of killing their six children in a house fire. I remember watching it on television last May and asking, as many others must have asked: "Where are the tears?" Philpott did a lot of hankie-wringing and face-dabbing but failed to produce a single teardrop. He wanted to be the celebrity and the hero. Instead, his performance for the cameras marked him down as the chief suspect.

MANCHESTER police are to extend the definition of "hate crimes" to cover attacks on Goths, emos and other sub-cultures. Let me know if any other groups who you think deserve special protection. Old blokes in libraries noisily sucking mints spring to mind.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Woman given pet ban after dog is put down

A WOMAN has been banned from keeping animals for five years after her pet dog had to be put down following months of neglect.

Sandra June Ray allowed one of 10-year-old Highland terrier Pepe's nails to grow so long it punctured her paw. Dudley Magistrates Court heard a growth in the dog's mouth had gone untreated and reached the point where it could not be fully removed by vets. The court was told it had been decided to put Pepe down to end her suffering. The dog's coat was also matted and covered in the animal's urine and faeces.

Ray, aged 53, of Pennant Road, Cradley Heath, admitted causing unnecessary suffering to an animal and three charges of breaching a duty of animal welfare. District Judge Graham Wilkinson told Ray she had only narrowly escaped a jail term before sentencing her to a two-month community order with a curfew between 6pm and 6am.

She was banned from keeping animals for five years and also ordered to pay a contribution of £1,000 to the care Pepe received from the RSPCA before she had to be put down.

Mrs Gaynor Sutton, prosecuting on behalf of the RSPCA, said the neglect had only come to light after neighbours, concerned for Pepe's welfare, confronted Ray on May 29 last year.

"Neighbours had been worried about Pepe for some time. They had only seen Ray visit once each day and only

by Lee Watton

for a few minutes. They had also heard Pepe howling late at night," she said.

"On May 29 two neighbours knocked on the door and demanded to see Pepe. Ray let them in and they found the dog in the conditions described."

Mrs Sutton said Pepe would have suffered "severe pain" due to the "ulcerated mass" in her mouth.

Vets decided to put her down as they were unable to fully remove the growth.

The court was told when interviewed by the RSPCA, Ray had told them she had "done her best".

The court was told Pepe had originally belonged to Ray's late husband who had cared for the dog and kept her in good condition.

But after his death, the dog had been left in Ray's care. Mr Kirandeep Soor, defending, said his client had done her best to look after the dog but had not been able to cope.

But this was rejected by District Judge Wilkinson. He said: "If she could not cope she could have taken the dog to a charity like the RSPCA."

## Author Will inspired by archives



William Stafford outside the new archives centre which is being built in Dudley

THE construction of the archives centre in Dudley has brought back memories for author William Stafford.

Walking past the site in Tipton Road has inspired the 48-year-old to put pen to paper.

Mr Stafford, of Old End Lane, Coseley, has written his seventh book called Poor Jacky, which has been published online by Andrews UK Ltd.

His novels are based on Dudley but set in the fictional town of Dedley. During his student days, he worked for Dudley's library service and helped to move archives from Himley Hall to the archives building in Coseley, which is to be replaced by the centre in Dudley.

"Walking past the site of the new Archives and Local History Centre next to the Black Country Living Museum, brought back memories of those days, and how creepy it was in that cellar."

Work should end in September.

## Security camera to keep out park yobs

SECURITY in a Cradley Heath park has been stepped up in an effort to tackle anti-social behaviour.

CCTV has been installed in Haden Hill Park by the police and Sandwell Council to try to tackle the problem of youths gathering there.

Sandwell Council cabinet member for neighbourhood services Councillor Ian Jones said: "Because of some reports of anti-social behaviour in the park it has been agreed with the police to install one CCTV camera for the added security of the park users."

The installation of the camera was revealed during a live webchat with Inspector Ian Massey, the officer in charge of policing in south Sandwell.

During the talk he was told by one resident that the park is "often blighted by gangs of youths at night", and was asked if there are any plans to beef up police presence, lighting or rangers in the park.

Inspector Massey said: "A great deal of partnership activity is taking place to tackle negative behaviour."

## Win unclaimed

PEOPLE in Dudley borough should check their old Lottery tickets because a £76,842 prize is unclaimed for the draw on March 20. The ticket holder has until September 16 to claim their prize. The numbers were 4, 11, 14, 27, 43, 46 and 42.

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Map showing location near High St, Forge Lane, Cradley Heath, and Brierley Hill.



## 100 trees will go in £2.6m work

AS many as 100 trees will be removed from a popular park as part of a £2.6million refurbishment project.

Dudley Council has lodged plans for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Park, including a new cafe and restoring the bandstand but dozens of trees will go.

Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "The proposed £2.6m of Heritage Lottery Fund improvements, which follow consultation with stakeholders and the Royal British Legion, would necessitate the removal of some of Mary Stevens Park's trees.

"Many of these trees are either causing damage to park infrastructure, are poor specimens or are immature and their removal would help us to increase the visibility of the war memorial.

"None of the trees are under preservation orders but Dudley Council always aims to replace trees that are felled by planting new ones across the borough."

Stourbridge resident Steph Simpson said she was concerned by the number of trees to be felled. "Even with the small amount of replanting proposed, this will not make up for the loss of mature habitat," she said.

## Religion seminar

RELIGIOUS Education and its place in UK schools will be the subject of a seminar of education chiefs. A day seminar on the subject's future in the curriculum at the University of Worcester will be held on June 19.

# Taxi drivers plan a go-slow in protest over white cars

DUDLEY town centre could be brought to a standstill when taxi drivers stage a go-slow to show their anger after proposals to abolish a single car colour scheme were thrown out by councillors.

Dozens of vehicles are expected to take part in the protest before the council taxi committee meeting at 5.30pm on April 24 to highlight concerns. More than 1,000 people signed a petition, including drivers and customers, asking the council to reverse rules saying only white coloured private hire cars can be used. Drivers say it can cost up to £2,000 extra for white models due to recent popularity by celebrities pushing up prices. Drivers will make two laps of the town going directly past Dudley Council House, in Priory Road, on the evening of the meeting.

## Jobs saved at Metalrax

NEARLY 400 jobs – including more than 90 in the Black Country – have been saved as buyers snapped up parts of Metalrax.

The group suspended shares and called in administrators but within hours, deals were sealed securing jobs of 387 at a group with Wolverhampton and Oldbury bases.

The Alvechurch group made kitchenware as well as doing specialist engineering work for clients such as JCB, Caterpillar and Jaguar Land Rover. Falling sales meant it did not bring in enough to keep running and additional funding bids were unsuccessful. It also lost a major contract to supply bakeware to Morrisons supermarkets.

Metalrax bosses said they called in administrators KPMG for part of the group but the houseswares arm, including 37 at the Samuel Groves plant, Oldbury, were not included in the administration. That has been bought by a new firm called Cable Capital Partners.

In a separate deal the main bulk of the Metalrax business, including 57 people at Cooper Coated Coil, Wednesfield, and 77 in Redditch at Weston Body Hardware, has been bought by a group of firms headed by engineering firm Bowman Birmingham.

About 600 members of Dudley Private Hire and Taxi Association are backing the action saying they have been left feeling "robbed" by the decision.

Dudley Council legal boss Councillor Gaye Partridge refused to back down saying the decision was taken "as part of the fair and democratic process."

The council says having a single colour scheme lets customers to safely identify fully licensed private taxis.

### Customers

Taxi association chairman Shaz Saleem says that the group intends to meet again next week to thrash out further details of the protest.

But Mr Saleem, managing director at Beacon Taxis, Sedgley and Express Taxis, Halesowen, says that his drivers feel this is the only way to send a message to the council without holding a strike which could hurt customers.

"We want them to make a U-turn on this policy," he said. "We want to show how strong we feel about this and how angry we are because quite frankly we feel robbed."

Councillor Partridge, said: "We recently reviewed this policy to ensure it continues to safeguard the public and considered views from councillors, police and the taxi drivers. The committee voted in favour of keeping the policy as part of the fair and democratic process we have in place."

## Nurses raise £26,000 for room



Front, Kian Ruff-Mulhall, from Cradley Heath and the nurses who originally started the campaign, from left, retired Mary Williams, Ruth Russell, Julie Dale and Linda Taylor and behind is Yo Jo Jo, from the children's television programme Waybuloo

WHEN Linda Taylor and her nursing colleagues at Russell's Hall Hospital set out to raise £26,000 they never thought they would make it.

Mrs Taylor and her colleagues Mary Williams and Ruth Russell had their sights set on a sensory room for the hospital's special needs children. The three nurses and their play specialist colleagues were sick of the lack of play things for special needs children in the hospital. So four years ago they launched their own fundraising campaign. Mrs Taylor, aged 56, said: "When we started

we thought we'd be lucky to get a few hundred pounds but the community just felt so strongly about it." Within about a year, they had made their £26,000 and were thrilled. When the sensory room opened the hunt began for a celebrity to perform the official opening. Mrs Taylor said: "We tried everyone we could think of. We tried Gary Barlow and got really close to getting Peter Andre but he had to pull out at the last minute." However, Waybuloo, from CBeebies, happened to be visiting Merry Hill and agreed to open the sensory room.

## NEWS in brief

### Libraries marking World Book Night

DUDLEY'S libraries will be celebrating World Book Night.

It is a celebration of reading and books and sees tens of thousands of volunteers share books on April 23.

Dudley Library's evening starts at 6pm with a quiz followed by a talk from Stourbridge author Miranda Dickinson.

Events at Halesowen Library will begin at 5.30pm including a book quiz with prizes.

At 6pm crime author Sam Hayes will be talking about her books.

### Football match to give hospice boost

FORMER football stars will play a fundraising match for a Dudley hospice.

Ex-Aston Villa player Ken McNaught is leading the West Midlands All Stars against Stourbridge Old Boys at Stourbridge Football Club at the War Memorial Athletic Club, Ambleside High Street on April 21.

The match will raise money for Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice. Gates open at noon. For tickets visit [www.marystevenshospice.co.uk](http://www.marystevenshospice.co.uk) or call 01384 377778.

### Group meeting

CRADLEY Action Group will hold its first meeting on April 22 at 7.30pm at The Laurels Club in Windmill Hill. They will be campaigning for regeneration and say buildings around the A458 need a boost to attract shoppers.

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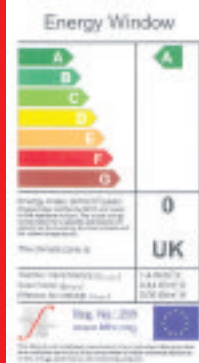
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## NEWS FEATURE

## IN MY VIEW

WITH  
MARK  
ANDREWS

GLASS half full or half empty? Last month was the second coldest March on record. And the good news? Well imagine how much worse it would be without global warming.

IF IAIN Duncan Smith has any sense, he will tactfully ignore the petition challenging him to prove he can live on £53 a week.

Many will remember how a rather silly young Tory MP called Matthew Parris tried a similar stunt, against the orders of the then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, back in 1984.

For an episode of Granada television's World In Action programme, Parris spent a week living on £26.30, at the time the basic rate of unemployment benefit. It all started so well. Each meal was carefully planned, his black-and-white television was budgeted for, and by Friday he was looking rather pleased with himself.

Then come Saturday, for some inexplicable reason, he blew all his savings on a football match. And he wasn't even interested in football. It never occurred to him that watching top-flight football was a luxury many working people struggle to afford, let alone people living on benefits. His brush with the terraces meant spending Sunday night in darkness because he didn't have the money for the electricity meter. Parris did indeed prove that it was possible for him to live on unemployment benefit for a single week, but he also ended up looking a bit of a pratt.

Work and Pensions Secretary Mr Duncan Smith is wise to avoid such cheap tricks.

IF Britain is a country truly committed to free speech, how come we still get phone bills?

HAVE you clocked the barnet on the new 'young police and crime commissioner' Paris Brown? The 17-year-old has got a bigger mane than Lenny the Lion. But jesting aside, let's not go overboard about a few foul-mouthed rants she posted on Twitter when she was 14.

That old shrinking violet Keith Vaz MP has waded into the debate, saying he is "deeply shocked by the disclosures". What, a man of the world like Mr Vaz, shocked that a teenage girl behaves like an, erm, adolescent?

The real question is about the wisdom of her boss, Kent police and crime commissioner Anne Barnes, spending £15,000 of public money employing a teenager to advise her about policing matters. Maybe Mrs Barnes thought it would make her seem modern and innovative, or perhaps she just fancied a go at playing Alan Sugar and spotting tomorrow's talent.

As for the BBC man who reduced Paris to tears with his relentless grilling: it's not big and it's not clever.



Fownes Brewery at the Jolly Crispin pub in Dudley



Brewers Thomas and James Fownes behind the bar



Marverine is a strong advocate of ale for women

# Watch out boys fem-ales have designs on the pint

Traditionally real ale is a male preserve but **CHARLOTTE LILLEY** has found a Black Country brewery which is seeking to change all that

**CALL me old fashioned if you will but I've never liked the idea of women drinking pints, mainly because it doesn't look feminine.**

But now one pub in Dudley is trying to change that attitude with a beer tasting session aimed specifically at women.

The Jolly Crispin in Clarence Street, wants to get more women strengthening their biceps and picking up a pint with an ale tasting class.

James and Tom Fownes, owners of Fownes Brewery in Upper Gornal, have organised the event to get rid of the mannish reputation of beer drinking.

Three new ales and a lot of lager will be on offer at the pub and television beer expert, Marverine Cole, will give a talk encouraging women to embrace a proper pint.

## Advocate

"I am a big advocate for women drinking beer and would even go as far as saying it is a much better compliment to food than wine," she says.

"Many women think it is fattening, calorific and just for men, but that is not the case.

"I have been writing about the beauty of beer for three years and want to dispel the myth that women shouldn't be drinking it.

"The truth is, if you're going to drink 10 pints and then eat a kebab you will put on weight.

"But if you drink in moderation and really sample the flavours and the aroma, you will enjoy it.

"Men have been drinking pints of beer for years but now more women are taking an interest in it.



Marverine Cole is trying to enlighten more women to the joys of real ale

"There are lots of different flavours to try because some beers are made with grapefruit and others are made with honey, so there really is something out there for everyone."

A recent survey in Italy revealed that drinking beer can be good for your heart.

The study of 200,000 people found those who drank a pint a day had a 31 per cent decrease in heart disease risk.

A group on social networking site Facebook called Girls Who Drink Pints,

appears to agree with the figures.

With more than 83,000 members, it advocates that women order a beer at the bar instead of a girly cocktail.

But while more women may be trying fruity beers and pale ale, there isn't a beer specifically for them.

So is this something James and Tom could branch out into?

"The female market has been the holy grail of larger breweries for some time, trying various marketing gimmicks to attract more female drinkers," says

James. As a new business it would have been silly to ignore this potential customer base, so we decided to approach it through an education avenue.

"We were aware that the perception of real ale was changing from an old man's drink to a premium product enjoyed in community pubs and city centre bars alike, and having become aware of the work that Marverine was doing to encourage ladies to try beer and appreciate what it had to offer, we wanted to work with her and get ladies to look at beer with a fresh perspective."

One woman from Shropshire who saw a gap in the market and created a beer just for women is 24-year-old Harriet Easton.

She took matters into her own hands when she produced Harry's Beer in 2007.

## Options

Although she went on to pursue other career options, James and Tom say the female market is still huge.

Tony Jerome spokesman for the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) says the industry is working together to show women their perceptions of beer are untrue.

"Real ale in the past has been seen by many women as flat and warm but the industry is playing a big role to show this is untrue and the numbers of women who have now tried real ale have doubled in the last four years," says Mr Jerome.

"Tasting sessions like the one being hosted by Fownes Brewery, are important ways of getting more people to try and drink British real ale which has led to an increase in sales in recent years."

Fownes was officially launched in October last year.

It produces 16 casks a week at the Clarence Street pub but work has begun to increase this number to 42 casks a week.

The ale tasting event will be held on April 16 at 6pm.

To book a place email [info@fownesbrewing.co.uk](mailto:info@fownesbrewing.co.uk) or visit [www.beerbeauty.co.uk](http://www.beerbeauty.co.uk) to find out more about the benefits of drinking beer.

## THROUGH THE YEARS

### 1983...

A REPORT by Manpower, the specialist employment agency, says firms in the West Midlands are facing a shortage of skilled workers, despite the lengthening dole queue. As many as two out of three employers in the region are unable to find enough skilled people, being sought by 63 per cent of employers.

A TEN-YEAR-OLD boy was hailed as a hero after rescuing a family of five from their blazing home in Birmingham. Roger Simpson dashed to get a ladder from his garden when he heard the family crying for help, marshalling the Rashid family from an upstairs window.

SCOUTS from Wolverhampton trekked 36 miles in preparation for their Duke of Edinburgh award. The lads from Penn Scouts set off from Church Stoke and completed the Shropshire Summits walk in just over 13 hours.

### 1993...

A FIREMAN braved thick choking smoke to rescue a Rotweiler trapped in a blazing Smeethwick home. But far from being a dangerous, snarling animal, the timid puppy cowered behind an upstairs toilet and had to be dragged to safety.

HORSE riders in Sedgley got the bit between their teeth over plans to ban them from a popular beauty spot. Three hundred people signed a petition opposing a proposal by Dudley Council to fence off parts of Cotwall End Valley.

A WALSALL couple were living out on a limb in a "detached" house after all the surrounding properties were bulldozed. William Price and his wife Bridget were left isolated after Walsall Council demolished 38 hard-to-let properties in Shakespeare Crescent, Harden.

### 2003...

HUNDREDS of Sikhs took part in a procession between Wednesfield and Willenhall to mark one of the holiest days in the religious calendar. Congregations from two gurdwaras in the towns embarked on a two-hour march from one to the other to celebrate Vaisakhi.

DUDLEY Zoo unveiled their new logo featuring rare Sumatran tiger triplets Jambi, Padang and Banda. The previous logo featuring an elephant had to be replaced after the zoo decided to move their two elephants, Flossie and Flora to a new home.

PLANS to expand Wolverhampton Business Airport drew protests from residents living near the Halfpenny Green site. More than 550 people crammed into All Saints' Church, Claverley, to voice their concerns.

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## LETTERS

# Where is the common sense?

SO all these new changes have now been introduced relating to the benefit system and health care.

Not at a reasonable pace, but like the coming of a tsunami ready to hit when least expected.

People are rushing to downsize to a smaller property but where is all this extra accommodation? Those on low incomes will be worse off because governments would rather pay work related benefits than put pressure on certain businesses to pay a decent wage for a decent day's work.

The unemployed are placed in one basket and made to look lazy and

nothing more than scroungers, demonised by the likes of politicians who live on another planet. I was made redundant from my last job through no fault of my own.

The health service is falling apart at the seams and under enormous pressure but still politicians continue to bring in changes, not because a better health service will be created but because it all saves money.

Any new party taking office always interferes with schools, the health service and welfare.

Every party knows best and acts accordingly.

There is one area, however, that never changes. The expenses and wages of politicians and councillors. If we are all in this together and everything needs to be fair, then why aren't any of these people willing to help?

Politicians and councillors need to get their "finger out" and start paying the price like the rest of us have to.

By the way, we are to open doors even wider at the end of this year and let more people into the country? Where is the common sense in this?

MARY WHITE  
Roundhill Road  
Dudley

## £53 is fine when you can return to high life

IAIN Duncan Smith, says he can live on £53 per week.

It is all very well saying that, when he knows he has his millions to fall back on afterwards.

Anyone can live on that for a few weeks, he has to try it for the rest of his life.

Take away his big house, and his second property - that we pay for; take away his money, car and MP payment for good.

Then out of the £53 he will have to pay gas, electric, he will have to buy a computer and pay for broadband to search for a job.

If in the unlikelihood of finding a job, he will have to pay for transport for the interview. Then he might have enough left to pay for luxuries like food and drink.

Anyone can make stupid statements when we know it's only for a short time.

Show me an MP that is suffering.

NORMAN D CADDICK  
Coseley

## LETTERS to the Editor

### POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

### E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Appalled at horse dowsed by yobs

I WAS appalled by the story about youths in Sedgley dowsing a horse in petrol and coming very close to setting it on fire.

If anything it was even more disconcerting the spokesman for the animal rescue group that saved the horses asked to remain anonymous for fear of reprisals.

Having these kind of vicious thugs roaming the streets of our area is not acceptable.

If anybody knows who these vile people are I would implore you to let the police know.

We must have these people taken off the streets and arrested I hope they will have a sufficiently strong sentence. This is an instance where the correct punishment is probably no longer on the statute books but a custodial sentence is the very least that is required.

BILL ETHERIDGE  
Sedgley

## Thorny problem for the first-time buyers

ONCE again another idea on how to stimulate the housing market and get first-time buyers on the bottom rung.

Regrettably, there is no easy fix in regard to this. Now we have a position where first-time buyers on low incomes are unable to purchase, so those already on the ladder are unable to move.

When I was first on the property ladder, things were so much easier in some respects as we did not have all the "must haves" of modern life. Therefore, we need to prioritise what we want. Mortgages were always difficult to get, so things have not changed much.

We did go through a period of mortgages up to 125 percent of valuation, but look where we are now. Throwing money at people to help them buy is not the solution. We have to go back to square one. Possibly a tax rate of around 95 percent to land owners wanting to make huge profits on something which God provided in the first place and use that tax in order to reduce house prices. Something else which I suggested many years ago when I was a Mortgage Manager was to tax profits made on resale properties over and above the inflation rate from the date of purchase.

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## NEWS

## Vinyl given new spin



Corina Harper, arts co-ordinator at the Boars Head Gallery, with some of the decorated vinyl records

OLD vinyl records are being given a fresh spin in an exhibition at a pub in the Midlands.

There have been about 200 entries for the open display being staged in the gallery at the Boar's Head pub in Kidderminster.

People have been invited to donate their old unloved vinyl records and decorate them for show as part of the lead-up to International Record Store Day this month.

Corina Harper, the 30-year-old arts co-ordinator at the gallery, said: "We thought we would try something a little different. The exhibition involves people decorating old vinyl records."

"Artists, musicians and local townfolk including a youth group have responded to the challenge of creating a piece of art by using a 12-inch record for a base."

"The exhibition will run until the end of the month and could become a touring exhibition as the Worcester Arts Workshop has already shown interest."

# Information on voters is sold on to companies

**COUNCIL** chiefs have admitted they were not happy about laws obliging them to sell on the names and addresses of tens of thousands of voters, as the identities of those who bought the details emerged.

by Alex Homer

Details from electoral registers were sold to many groups, including credit agencies, gym clubs, window firms and political parties.

Councils said laws bound them to sell on details from the full and edited electoral registers for negligible amounts.

The sales have brought in less than £1,000 for all of the councils.

Voters are being urged to opt out of the edited electoral register if they did not want their details to be shared, as it is available for general sale and can be used for commercial activities like marketing.

John Polychronakis, chief executive of Dudley, added: "The edited register is available for general sale and can be used for any purpose."

"It can be bought by any person, company or organisation and can be used for commercial activities."

Councillor Chris Towe, Walsall's finance and per-

sonnel chief, said: "Despite carrying out a consultation with local authorities about ending the sale of what's known as the edited version of the register in 2009/10, the Government made no changes to the current legislation."

"So it leaves us in an awkward situation."

"The amount of junk mail I receive at home annoys me immensely and frankly, if I had my way we wouldn't want to be any part of this process."

"Councils have no say whatsoever in the matter, as the law specifically allows anybody, including direct marketing companies to purchase the edited version of the register."

"I'd like to remind people that you can 'opt out' of having your details included in the edited version by ticking a box the next time you receive the electoral registration form."

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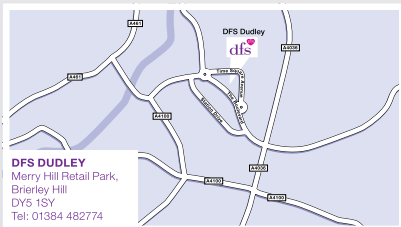
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## MEMORY LANE



Young and old, many in the Sunday best, gather to state their case



Large numbers of strikers and their families gather in the town centre



Women queue for bread for their families as the strike takes hold

# When thousands joined strike that left many on the verge of starvation



Shopkeepers showed their support for strikers seen waiting in the Market Place for handouts of free food

**It was a mass protest that left Black Country workers on the verge of starvation and created ripples felt nationally.**

And now, 100 years on, events have been organised to commemorate the anniversary of the 1913 Wednesbury Tube Strike.

It saw thousands of men in the Black Country come out in support of workers seeking wage parity with their Birmingham colleagues who were earning 23 shillings a week, which was still a low wage for the time.

Freelance writer and history enthusiast Brendan Hawthorne, who recently gave a lecture at Wednesbury Library, said although it is a story of hardship, austerity and tragic consequences, there are still comic moments, funny stories and music to lighten the dark times.

"There are so many parallels with today. The balance of standing up for your rights but also putting food on the table is still in evidence a hundred years

*by David Lumb*

on," he said. The strike started on May 9 when 200 workers from Crown Works demanded higher wages. Large numbers of strikers gathered in the Market Place.

It spread across the Black Country, and in a matter of weeks, there were up to 50,000 people involved.

During the unrest, families struggled for basic food items and relied on charity to help them through the tough times.

Shopkeepers showed their support by giving away free food, there were visits to the region by major figures such as the trade unionist Tom Mann, and there were marches to London and south Wales.

After three months of unrest, the strikers returned to work after the employers agreed on a minimum wage of 22 shillings a week for unskilled labourers.

Mr Hawthorne, of Wharfedale Street,

Wednesbury, added: "So little is known about this event that I feel I need to show the townsfolk of Wednesbury how strong-minded and brave their ancestors were."

Wednesbury historian Paul Fantom will be giving a talk to Wednesbury History Society on May 7.

"I think this is a period that has been overlooked by historians but it is of huge importance," said Mr Fantom, aged 45.

"This protest sparked a growth in trade unionism. You went from a situation where workers were on 18 shillings a week – and we have social research saying a family needed a minimum of 21 shillings a week to survive – to an improved standard of living.

"It's something that should be celebrated for the impact it had on communities."

Mr Fantom's talk is expected to take place at Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery. Call 0121 556 0683 for information.



Brandon Hawthorne said although the strike had tragic consequences it still had its comic moments

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Tony Hardiman goes on to say "We don't know how long the scheme will be available for so it's vitally important that those households that think they may be eligible should call us straight away to avoid disappointment – it's free and could make all the difference between a cold home – or a warm one."

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## NEWS

## A little runaround



The VW Polo which stopped workers laying a section of road



Outside Russells Hall Hospital, where they have had to resurface around a parked car

CONTRACTORS were forced to leave an 8ft long section of road without a new surface after a car was left parked there during roadworks.

Traffic cones had to be placed around the VW Polo after it was left parked against the kerb over the road from Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital.

Workers had been busy trying to relay the road surface along the stretch of Pensnett High Street which had become worn out with potholes. But they were scuppered in their bid to surface the roadway near the demolished Poets Corner pub because of the car.

Parking bans are in force on the road and Dudley Council highways engineer Peter Vangeersdale said police would be monitoring for any cars seen parked. Double yellow lines had been painted down the sides but these had vanished as the road resurfacing work got under way.

It is understood the car was not towed away as the road workers expected the driver to return. The vehicle was later driven away and the surfacing work was then completed.

# Calls being renewed to lessen noise on the M54

RENEWED calls have been made for the M54 motorway to be resurfaced to reduce noise amid fears the expansion of the Jaguar Land Rover plant at the i54 business park will attract thousands of extra cars.

by Adam Burling

South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson has been campaigning for the carriageway to be relaid at a cost of £1.5 million per mile.

He arranged a meeting in January with Stephen Hammond and was hoping to convince him to back the proposals.

But instead the roads minister insisted the work would only be carried out when it becomes necessary and the surface has deteriorated.

Previous estimates have suggested the road would not need relaying for 10 years.

But residents around the area of i54 are stepping up their campaign after JLR announced it would double the size of its engine plant taking the total workforce at the factory to around 1,500.

Locals and Mr Williamson have asked the Highways Agency to carry

out a new survey to measure the noise created on the carriageway. They are worried the noise will now get even worse.

Mr Williamson said: "I think it's very important that we do a fresh noise mapping of the M54 because without a shadow of a doubt the number of people using the M54 is greater than it was 10 years ago."

"With 1,500 people working at the site, the majority of them will use the M54, and it would be unrealistic not to expect that to have some impact."

He says the M54 needs to be resurfaced from Telford to South Staffordshire, where it links up with the M6. There is a low noise tar that can be used, known in the trade as Whisper Tar, he added.

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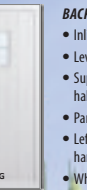
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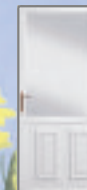


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# NEWS

## Developers praised for leading town's revamp

DEVELOPERS going head-to-head in a bid to bring major supermarkets into the heart of Dudley have been championed for leading the town's rejuvenation.

Councillors say the ambitious plans will put Dudley on the map. Old eyesore office tower blocks, derelict buildings and under-used public car parks would be transformed under the separate proposals.

All three schemes are vying to bring one of the country's main supermarket chains to the town centre.

Developer Commercial Estate Group has won approval for its modern, glass fronted 27,000 sqft store on the land between Flood Street and King Street.

Falcon House in The Minories, which dates back to the 1960s, will be demolished as part of the project. It is used as offices, but is 75 per cent empty. The new complex will be linked to the centre by walkways.

A car park below the £20 million complex will have space for 278 vehicles. The scheme will create up to 500 new jobs and bring much-needed redevelopment to King Street.

Planning committee chairman Councillor Rachel Harris, speaking at a meeting last week, said she was unconcerned by the loss of the Falcon House offices as there was better quality premises in other parts of the borough like Castlegate.

She added: "What I like about this plan is as you come in along Duncan Edwards Way, Dudley Southern Bypass, you will see a town instead of a mass of car parking."

## Site visit for homes plan

PLANS to build three homes on land at a busy crossroads have been delayed for councillors to make a site visit. Residents voiced concern on the plan near homes off Furnace Hill, opposite Our Place fish and chip shop, Halesowen. An outline planning application sought to develop one three-bed property and two two-bedroom homes but a committee agreed to visit the site and report back.

## Ex-Baggies star at sale



With auction items, Bob Taylor and event organiser Paul Millard, of Upper Gornal, at Monty's Wine Bar, Sedgley

FORMER Albion star 'super' Bob Taylor was the guest of honour at a disco and auction to raise money for a good cause.

The striker was at Monty's Wine Bar in Sedgley to help Paul Millard raise the money to run the London Marathon. Road worker Mr Millard, aged 39, wants to take part in the event on April 21 as a homage to his long-term friend Leighton Hall, who has just won his battle against bowel cancer. He needed to raise £2,000 to take part.

Money raised will go to the Bobby Moore Foundation, which Mr Hall, 40, expressed a desire to support during his chemotherapy.

Father-of-two Mr Millard, of Eve Lane, Lower Gornal said: "Leighton said he wanted to give something back and I said 'don't worry, I'll sort it,'" he said. The event at the High Street venue featured live music acts.

The auction saw items such as signed West Bromwich Albion and Wolves shirts go under the hammer. Mr Millard had raised £1,000 before the event started and then smashed his £2,000 target by achieving £1,500 in ticket sales.

Mr Millard, who knows Mr Hall from their days playing for Tividale Football Club together, arranged for Bob Taylor to attend.

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## Mother Kerry showing how to be a bright spark

WORKING mother, part-time soldier and student at a Dudley college Kerry Hyland has shown what a bright spark she is.

Kerry, aged 29, has earned a place as one of the country's best female apprentices over the age of 25 at the Women in Construction Awards.

The electrical installation apprentice at Stourbridge College after switching from previous jobs in retail and hospitality.

Kerry, from Stourport-on-Severn, funded herself through a City & Guilds level-two course in electrical installation and secured an electrical apprenticeship at The Community Housing Group so she could finish her level-three course one day a week.

At the Women in Construction Awards in Manchester Kerry was selected as a finalist

for Best Apprentice/New Starter aged 25 and Over.

She said: "I have a busy and hectic lifestyle, looking after my 11-year-old daughter, working full-time, studying as well as being a member of the Territorial Army during the evenings and at weekends."

"I wanted a career that would be physically and mentally challenging and I always push myself to achieve more. More women should look at working in construction and I'm really pleased my efforts have been recognised nationally at the Women in Construction Awards."

"Even though I didn't win the overall award, just to have been nominated and chosen as a finalist has been a great boost to my confidence."

## Council tax spread out

**HUNDREDS of people have taken up the offer of spreading the cost of their council tax bills under a new scheme set up to help cash-strapped households.**

Councils have been told to allow people to pay their bills over 12 months rather than the usual 10.

Traditionally, authorities have collected the rent over 10 months to ensure they have got all the money in to pay for services by the end of the financial year.

But new rules passed by Parliament require all councils to allow people to pay over 12 months if they wish.

Some authorities, such as Wolver-

hampton, Walsall and Cannock Chase, already offered the service and receive payments from thousands of people each year spread over 12 months.

Other councils have agreed to let hundreds of ratepayers spread the cost from next week.

In Sandwell, 453 households will pay over 12 months out of 128,000 while in Dudley a further 450 will do so.

South Staffordshire Council has agreed to let 153 pay over the course of a year while Wyre Forest has made arrangements for 102.

Lichfield District Council has 157 accounts out of 43,300 paying over 12 months and Stafford Borough Council is doing it for 730.

In Walsall, where the scheme was already offered, 26,203 people pay every month - 24 per cent of all accounts.

Figures were not available for Wolverhampton City Council but spokesman Tim Clark said it was the most popular form of payment.

Cannock Chase has also been offering 12 monthly direct debit payments for years and has more than 4,000 people who pay that way.

Sandwell Council's deputy leader Councillor Steve Eling said: "It is a new government ruling but judging by the figures, it would appear that the vast majority of people prefer to continue with the 10-month payment and have two free months."

## Swimming for funding

SWIMATHON fundraising events are being staged at Dudley, Halesowen and Crystal Leisure centres.

The events, open to anyone, are part of the national Swimathon campaign, which encourages swimmers to undertake challenges at their local pool to raise cash for Marie Curie Cancer Trust.

Dudley and Halesowen leisure centres will operate their events on April 27 with swims in the afternoon. Crystal Leisure Centre will also hold swims on April 27 at 2pm and on April 28 at 1.30pm. To register, log on at [www.swimathon.org](http://www.swimathon.org)

## Memorial architect's son backs campaign



David Lewis, the son of the architect John T. Lewis, is supporting the campaign for the memorial to be restored

RELATIVES of the architect who designed Dudley's original Churchill Precinct have joined the campaign to restore a stained glass mosaic that formed the centrepiece of the site.

The work, a memorial to war-time leader Sir Winston Churchill, took pride of place in the centre from its opening in 1969 until the early-1990s. It was decided to take down the mosaic after vandalism and weather damage took its toll, and is now in storage.

But Dudley North MP Ian Austin recently launched a campaign to get the memorial restored in time for the 50th anniversary of Mr Churchill's death in 2015.

It has received support from the community - with the son of the architect responsible for devising the piece as part of his plans for the precinct now adding his approval.

David Lewis, aged 58, of Wordsley, said he had worked to generate interest in getting the work restored himself for many years but had not been successful.

### Delighted

"I am delighted there has been renewed interest in getting the mosaic restored," he said. "It is the most spectacular piece of art never to achieve national fame."

"I have tried to create some interest in the work in the past as I thought it would have been an ideal piece to go on display in Stourbridge's Glass Quarter. However, it fell on deaf ears at the time. I am fully supportive of this campaign and will try to help in any way I can."

David's father, John T. Lewis, worked as Borough Architect from 1952 until his death in 1968 and both envisaged and designed the original Churchill Precinct and Birdcage Walk. He was friends with world-renowned artist Edward Bainbridge Copnall, who made the piece, depicting scenes from Churchill's life, a reality.

Unfortunately John, better known as JT, did not live to see his design completed as he died of lung cancer in 1968, aged 54. David and his mother, Eileen, were guests of honour at the opening of the centre in 1969, joining the dignitaries on the main stage at the ceremony.

## Walk and talk will set history of listed park

People can go behind the scenes at a Grade I listed park in Halesowen to learn more about how the historic site is maintained. The Leasowes is recorded on English Heritage's register of parks and gardens of special historic interest in England.

The Leasowes started as farmland which celebrated poet William Shenstone inherited and transformed into a diverse landscape. He started work on the project in 1743 and continued until his death 20 years later. Senior warden, Antony Ravenscroft, will lead a 90 minute walk around the site on April 14 to explain its future development.

Councillor Tracy Wood, cabinet member for environment and culture, said: "This is an opportunity for anyone interested in the future plans of The Leasowes to find out first hand what developments will be taking place and how stewardship works."

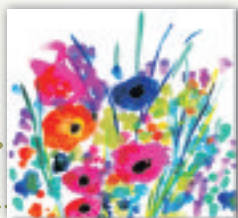
The walk and talk starts at 10am from the wardens' base, off Mucklow Hill, Halesowen. Call 01384 814642.

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**FOCUS ON ROWLEY REGIS & BLACKHEATH****MP makes a visit to growing company**

HALESOWEN and Rowley Regis MP James Morris toured a Blackheath manufacturer's newly-expanded premises.

He was shown around Blackheath 'Products' 100,000 sq ft warehouse on Fairfield Road, where he spoke to staff and management about their work and the local economy.

The 50-year-old firm produces laminate surfaces for the construction and furniture industries and employs more than 100.

Mr Morris heard about work the family-run company has done for Cadbury World, Guys Hospital and the new Shard tower in London.

Mr Morris said: "Businesses like Blackheath Products are providing the jobs that our community needs and it is encouraging to see that they have the confidence to invest for future growth."

**Spring fair to raise funding**

A SPRING fair will help raise money for Age Concern Stourbridge & Halesowen on April 13.

An array of handmade crafts and gifts will be on sale. The fair will take place from 10.30am at the Elton Centre, St John's Road, Stourbridge.

**Hopes to renovate memorial in time for Armed Forces Day**

**A WAR memorial in Rowley Regis could be renovated in time for Armed Forces Day if a restoration project moves ahead as planned.**

The memorial in St Giles' churchyard has eroded to the point where the names of those who lost their lives in the First World War are no longer readable. Church wardens, Sandwell Council and the church's vicar, Reverend Ian Shelton, launched a £20,000 restoration project around six months ago.

They now have a stonemason and are waiting for final quotes. Councillor Chris Tranter said the group hoped to have the revamped memorial consecrated at a public Armed Forces Day event on June 29.

He added: "The memorial is in a dreadful state and it is of course coming up to the centenary of the First World War.

"It is a soft stone and it has eroded so we are replacing it with granite and the names will be inscribed so it will last 100 years. We have taken the names from a board in the church.

"It is so important to have this in Rowley Regis to honour the war dead. It will

be tastefully done."

"The money is in place and the design has gone out to the stonemason," he added. "By the end of the month we will have the contract in place."

Pupils from St Michael's CE High School are researching the memorial's history for a project and the school's photography club will document the improvements.

The memorial was erected by Joseph H Willetts, a stone mason from Old Hill. It contains the names of nearly 100 people from the village who died between 1914 and 1918. The churchyard on Hanover Road houses the graves of nine other soldiers whose names, for unknown reasons, are not on the memorial.

**Competition call to all gamers**

BLACKHEATH'S best computer gamers are invited to play at the town's latest tournament. Held once a month, at Blackheath Library, High Street the gamers compete on game Pro Evolution Soccer to win a £50 Zavvi voucher plus ranking points. The next tournament is on April 28 at noon. Visit [www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/libraries).



Retiring office manager at Springfield Primary Rowley Regis, Jackie Bullock with, from left, pupils Keisha Mason, Kyle Lawrence, Maria McMahon and Leia Cox all aged 11

**Pupils in farewell to Jackie**

PUPILS at a Rowley Regis school have said farewell to a staff member who has worked there for more than 20 years.

Jackie Bullock has been an office manager at Springfield Primary, Dudley Road, since 1992 and said goodbye to pupils and colleagues as she retired.

The mother-of-two, from West Bromwich, was at the school when it became Springfield Primary, she said: "It has been a very busy time, but the children and staff have always kept me cheerful."

The 60-year-old added: "The job has changed completely, it used to be quite a simple, straightforward job and it has just got bigger and bigger, more involved and interesting."

She is now looking forward to spending more time with her family. Headteacher Sue Powis said: "We are sad to see her leave our family at Springfield."

**Football prospect admits to wire theft**

A FOOTBALL hopeful caught "red-handed" trying to steal copper wire from underneath the streets of Rowley Regis has admitted theft.

The former West Ham prospect, Michael Barnard, was found under a manhole in Habberley Road, after a BT engineer went to inspect a line-fault.

The worker had removed the cover and heard noises prompting him to call police, who found the would-be thief climbing out of the hole.

The 20-year-old from Lower Road, Hextable, Kent, pleaded guilty to theft at Sandwell Magistrates Court and will be brought before the courts on May 14 for sentencing.

Anyone with information relating to metal theft can call West Midlands Police on 101, or call Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Fair will offer hope of jobs**

THE first Halesowen & Rowley Regis Apprenticeship and Skills Fair is being held next month.

Local employers will be exhibiting at the Zion Christian Centre, on Little Cornbow, on May 3.

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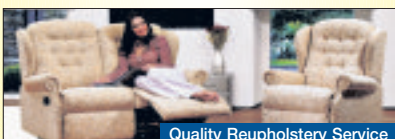
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## CLUB NEWS

## Chocolate bunnies for quiz winner

## BLACKHEATH M TWG

THE March meeting, opened by chairman Doreen Armstrong, also included the AGM.

Doreen welcomed those in attendance and praised them for braving the severe cold and icy conditions.

Monthly reports were given by treasurer Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmere and Press officer Iris Harris.

Three ladies received prizes of soap bunnies in the monthly raffle.

Iris Harris opened the AGM. The general report was produced and read by Doreen Smith and accepted by members. She was given a vote of thanks.

The treasurer presented her report which was adopted and seconded and she was given a vote of thanks. A small change was announced to standing orders.

Iris then announced the committee for the next year.

Doreen presented a bouquet of flowers to Evelyn Edwards, who was retiring after more than 13 years on the committee.

The ladies then relaxed to enjoy a quiz, won by Chris Turner who was presented with a chocolate bunny. Doreen read and poem and three games of bingo followed. Prizes were again chocolate bunnies. The day ended with tea, coffee, biscuits and fresh cream cakes.

The speaker at the April 24 meeting will be David Berry on "A Day in Court".

## Guest speaker tells of charity work in Kolkata



Marilyn Bose was the guest speaker

## MYTIME OVER FIFTIES

THE March meeting began with a talk from Mrs Marilyn Bose entitled "Mother Teresa and Calcutta."

Mrs Bose is the widow of a well-known Wolverhampton GP who maintained both professional and personal links with his birthplace Calcutta, now Kolkata. They worked with Bilston Rotary Club to raise donations for Mother Teresa's Charity and were invited to meet her.

Marilyn describes Mother Teresa as tiny, inspiring, with a super sense of humour and the ability to speak many languages. Marilyn has been visiting Kolkata for 27 years, spending a month at a time working wherever she is sent. Marilyn spoke of the charity work being carried out and showed off the hand-made teddy bears and knitted vests that volunteers make for the orphans.

Following a short tea break Ms Maggie Thompson from Age UK Dudley gave an interesting talk on the leisure and exercise activities available through the LEAP Over 50 project.

On April 24 John Billingham will describe "Our Stour from Clent to Stourport".

## Tour of Commons enjoyed

AT the AGM in March the committee agreed to continue for the forthcoming year. After the business was completed, the guild enjoyed a cheese and wine supper.

The ladies were also invited by South Staffordshire MP Gavin Williamson to visit the Houses of Parlia-

## PERTON JUBILEE TOWNSWOMEN

ment. They were met and given a conducted tour by Mr Williamson and his assistants. The MP also gave a

talk on the history of Parliament.

Later in March, the club enjoyed a meal at The Fox of Shipley to celebrate the guild's birthday.

Seven members will join the Federation's three-day break to attend the national AGM at Harrogate.

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## NEWS

# £7m rail compensation scheme deadline moved

A £7 MILLION compensation scheme for rail passengers in the Midlands who suffered months of disruption has been extended to try and get more people to claim free travel.

For more than two months at the end of last year London Midland passengers were forced to check for daily updates on whether or not their trains would even run, while many were forced to get off miles away from their destination and change to other services.

The problems came after more than 30 drivers left the firm within a short space of each other last year, meaning the company could not fulfill all of its timetable commitments.

Bosses have since said they have addressed the driver shortage while agreeing the compensation package with the Department for Transport.

But now they have had to extend the amount of time people have to claim compensation in a bid to get more to come forward. The scheme has been extended until April 30. Season ticket holders who were affected by the problems are allowed to claim five days of free travel across the London Midland network.

Those who qualify for compensation can find out more information by visiting [www.londonmidland.com](http://www.londonmidland.com)

## St George preparations

DUDLEY is getting ready to celebrate St George's Day with a parade. The march is among events marking England's patron saint on April 20. It will set off from the Council House at 10.30am and make its way along Priory Road, Priory Street and Stone Street. When it reaches the market place the mayor will officially open the event at 11am. Any clubs or groups interested in taking part should contact Kate Rochester Jones on 01384 815222 or email [kate.rochester-jones@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:kate.rochester-jones@dudley.gov.uk)

## Felicity is in the semis



Felicity Cox, aged 13, of Stourbridge, who has made it through to the semi-finals of a singing competition being held next month

A TEENAGED singer from Dudley will compete against fellow hopefuls from around the country after making it through to the semi-final of a competition.

Felicity Cox, of Stourbridge, wowed judges at the Birmingham NEC to earn her place in the next round of the popular Teen Star event.

The 13-year-old, of Rufford Road, will now perform in the semi-final of the competition on May 26.

The event will be held at Huddersfield Town Hall and Felicity will pit her singing skills against hopefuls from other regions, including Manchester and Liverpool.

She had not yet decided what song she will perform. The youngster performed Skinny Love, originally by

Birdy, at the last stage of the competition. Her father Paul said everyone was very proud of Felicity and her achievements.

"We are really looking forward to the next stage of the competition. Felicity has entered other events in the past and has done extremely well," he said.

"At the moment she is still deciding what to sing in the competition. We will be looking at three or four songs over the next few weeks and picking the best one."

Mr Cox said his daughter, who attends the Redhill School in Junction Road, Stourbridge, had first started singing around three years ago. A Youtube post of her singing an Eva Cassidy song received high praise.

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# STAYING IN

## Explore a city in the sky

IT IS rather early to suggest THE game of the year has arrived but it will take something very special to top Bioshock Infinite (18).

If the original Bioshock and its world of iron and water was for long the best 'steampunk' style fantasy game available, well its long-awaited sequel has gone some way better with the incredible flying city of Columbia.

It is set in an alternative American 1912, where a fundamentalist cult led by a dictatorial prophet has gripped a mechanised world, where racism is rife and a floating barber shop quartet sings Beach Boys songs.

### Stunning

You play as Booker DeWitt, a detective on a mission to find a mysterious girl. It is not long before the beautifully crafted graphics are blood splattered because, despite its quest and stunning imagination, this remains in essence a first person shooter.

Of course, nothing is quite what it seems in this looking glass world.

But one thing is certain, Bioshock Infinite is worth the six year wait since the original.

Leon Burakowski



Go back to the future in the 'steampunk' fantasy game Bioshock Infinite

Also available:

**The Sims 3: University Life (7)**

Get a degree, hit the dorm party circuit or explore off-campus in the latest life stage expansion pack for the popular computer title. EA maintain the series's eye for detail, compulsive gameplay and sense of humour.

**Gears of War Judgement (18)**

This series of muscle-flexing sci-fi shooters has become a staple of the game scene and the new prequel to the Gears trilogy is another solid addition, although the fragmented campaign is

sometimes at odds with arcade style thrills. Baird and co certainly have their hands full with the heavily armed alien enemies.

**History Legends of War (16), Air Conflicts Pacific Carriers (16)**

Tactics rather than aggression are key to victory in History's top-down viewed strategy game based on D-Day and the latter stages of the war. Pacific Carriers is a decent Second World War flight combat sim for console flyboys.

Titles either reviewed on Xbox 360 or PC but available in various formats.

## Year of the comeback

MUSICALLY 2013 is becoming the year of the comeback.

First David Bowie stunned his fans with The Next Day, his first album in ten years and probably his best since Black Tie White Noise in 1993.

Whilst lead single Where Are We Now? struck a melancholic note, the album is itself aggressively a rock album, suggesting Bowie intends to rage against the dying of the light.

### Vocals

Now Bowie's 1990s Britpop heirs Suede are back with their first album in ten years.

Bloodsports finds them in classic form - Brett Anderson's vocals are at his imperious best with churning guitar from Richard

Oakes, epic keyboards from Neil Codling, propulsive drumming and bass by Simon Gilbert and Mat Osman.

It Starts And Ends With You and Hit Me are as good as anything that's gone before in the Suede repertoire.

With Stereophonics having just released their best album for years, Graffiti On The Train, and Simple Minds reactivated with a greatest hits package and tour, the previous generations are leading by example.

And get ready for the imminent returns of James, Texas, Lisa Stansfield, OMD, The B-52s and a Hyde Park concert by The Rolling Stones.

## Cop drama

THE hand-held camera comes into its own in this thrilling US cop drama End Of Watch (15), on DVD and Blu-Ray. Share a patrol car with officers Taylor (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Zavala (Michael Pena) as they experience a bad day on their LA beat.

Some may fondly remember 1970s movie The Amazing Mr Blunden (U), about Edwardian children who help a pair of ghosts right a wrong, now out on DVD.

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| Mixed Media - jewellery making                      | 22/04/13 | 7-9pm           | £45.00 |
| Portraits in Pastels (5 weeks)                      | 22/04/13 | 7-9pm           | £33.75 |
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| French Conversation - improvers                     | 24/04/13 | 7-9pm           | £45.00 |
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| Latin American Dancing - beginners                  | 24/04/13 | 5.30-7pm        | £33.75 |
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| Thursday  | Start    | Time            | Fee    |
| Art - drawing and painting at Long Lane Library     | 25/04/13 | 10am-12noon     | £45.00 |
| ESOL for Women                                      | 25/04/13 | 10am-12noon     | £45.00 |
| Friday  | Start    | Time            | Fee    |
| Genealogy - tracing your family history (3 weeks)   | 26/04/13 | 2:15-4:15pm     | £13.50 |
| The Joy of Drawing and Painting                     | 26/04/13 | 2.45-4.45pm     | £45.00 |
| Water Colour Painting - intermediate                | 26/04/13 | 1.50-4.50pm     | £67.50 |





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**KAREN** pretty 32yr old single mum of one, OHAC, eager to move on and enjoy male companionship and tlc, single dad welcome, age/looks not important.



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Karen & Jim

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**JIM** 5ft 10ins, medium build, brown hair, blue eyes, likes keep fit, walks, seeks attractive lady for good times, maybe more.

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**ABBY** is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

**SUSAN** 49, fun loving, 5ft 2ins, brown hair/eyes, many interests, needs heart mending. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 204862

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeks older male, 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325

**KIND** romantic female, 50, seeking a male to talk, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368429

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male with GSOH, 58-62. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651

**TINA** fun loving single mum who enjoys most things in life, seeking happy guy with GSOH for meals in dates out, possible romance and adult companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403567

**CAROL**, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

**AMY** 19yr old single female looking for much older naughty male for discreet fun times only. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403361

**SHARON** medium build lovely, 33yrs, pale complexion, nice eyes, feminine, outgoing, confident, enjoys varied interests, WLM all round nice guy for adult relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403345

**CAROL** South African lonely heart 37yrs, looking for fun with mature gent 50plus, likes dining in/out, discretion assured/appreciated. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403337

**WIDOW** seeking similar aged male to share holidays and weekends out. Car owner preferred. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389795

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883

**LONG** haired blonde, 37, enjoys meals out but would love to cook a romantic meal for the man of her dreams. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361076

**TALL** curvy female, 36old, loves music, looking for fun and romance with dark male. Give me a call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 359238

**61YR** old lady 5ft 2ins, medium build, long dark hair, smoker, seeks smart gent who wants to get out and about for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396409

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501

**DAWN** attractive, slim female, 45, N/S, no ties, WLM tall, fit male with get up and go attitude towards life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375825

**YOUNG** looking, pretty female, 40, brunette, slim, no ties, N/S, seeks attractive, refined male for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 313115

**JANICE** 40, 5ft 5ins, medium build, brown eyes, likes music, cooking, cosy nights in/out, seeks similar male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397407

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979

**GRACE** Jones lookalike, black lady, 53, 5ft 11ins, OHAC, WLMt male, 45-65, 6ft plus for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 397681

**35YR** old female, seeks intelligent, down to earth male, 50-75 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386297

**FEMALE** looking for gent, 65-70, caring, loving and independent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378295

**BIG** is beautiful! Female looking for someone to share a life time of happiness with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 368528

**SLIM** fit, bubbly female can't wait to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367066

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, GSOH, slim, dark hair, 50's, likes walks, films, art, meals out, seeks male with GSOH and similar interests for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399245

**CHARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127

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**43YR** old female, bubbly, down to earth, trustworthy, honest, caring, seeks male, 45 plus. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402945

**IRENE** 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807

**62YR** old female, widowed, small, slim, attractive, kind, outgoing, likes meals out, dancing, holidays, nights in, seeking professional gent. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394106

**BERNIE** Beautiful black lady with no ties seeks her King, curvy, intelligent, feminine and all you will ever need, what are you waiting for? Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402991

**ALISON** 37 animal loving female who enjoys a quiet life, cooking, seeks older respectful male 42-60yrs to enjoy meals out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402793

**HI** I am Sara 21, a petite single mum, sporty, caring and looking for reliable, well groomed male 30-40yrs for adult 1-2-1. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402771

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**LISA** 30's tall slim beauty looking for dining partner to romance, pamper and appreciate me in return for good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402645

**GAIL** 52, blonde hair, 5ft 2ins, likes nights out, seeks N/S male, 50-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 402041

**LOVING** caring young 68yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim-medium build, size 12, smoker, seeks slim, well-dressed guy with GSOH for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399923

**LIZ** 42, black, divorced, seeking male, 44-54 for kind, sincere, honest, open relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 400949



**CLARE** 38, single mum, curvy hour glass, loves to be tactile, OHAC, WLMt caring male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 399047

**CAROLINE** attractive, kind, caring, 43, seeking kind, caring male for LTR, 45-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396837

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317

**CURVY** red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432

**LITTLE** bit nice and definitely a little bit naughty! Imaginative curvy blonde seeks male for kisses and cuddles. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363428

**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818

**PROFESSIONAL** tall, slim, attractive, bubbly, genuine lady, seeks tall, professional, genuine guy, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 215244

**SLIM** curvy blonde, 44, professional, seeks tall, professional male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 171231

**KIND** romantic, loving lady, 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387631

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, average looks, likes reading, meals out, cinema, theatre, quiet pubs, honest, genuine, kind, caring, GSOH, seeks male, 42-58. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391308

**FUN** loving lady, 56, outgoing, honest, caring, seeks caring male, 55-60 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391192

**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327

**YVONNE** looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135

**FEMALE** looking for stocky male, 50-60 to share a happy life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386169

**BLACK** attractive female, 34, slim, N/S, seeks genuine male for friendship, maybe more. Holby. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 367021

**PATRICIA** 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207

**MADELINE** 5ft black, seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789

**5FT** 1ins female, brown hair, blue eyes, medium build, seeks male, 40-50, honest, caring, trustworthy, down to earth and bubbly. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388741

**MARIA** 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 329319

**33YR** old black haired, medium build, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799

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**29YR** old male, likes holidays, cinema, clubs, seeks female for friendship and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403759

**ROBERT** 72, young looking, retired carpenter, N/S, non-drinker, seeks kind, black lady in Wolverhampton area. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403641

**45YR** old British Asian male, 5ft 9ins, slim-medium build, kind, caring, GSOH, likes romantic meals, nights in, films, music, walks, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 403631

**DARREN** young looking 37, likes pubs, clubs, cinema, meals out, cosy nights in, seeks female 18-37. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392049

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**BORED** and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDP 205026 to 66888

**ASIAN** female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDP 204765 to 66888

**SUE**, sporty and fun, why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

**NATALIE**, foreign beauty hopes a nice working man will send her a text. She is home alone. Text INDP 204600 to 66888

**SENSITIVIE**, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

**LINDSEY**, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 205034 to 66888

**SINGLE** mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. Text INDP 205285 to 66888

**JASMINE**, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDP 204668 to 66888

**BIG** is best, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how well I know! Text INDP 205069 to 66888

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## NEWS

# Ex-director and Mr Fixit Ernie has died, aged 85

**RETIRED** works director Ernie Woodhall – renowned among his friends for his “ingenious” knack for fixing problems – has died aged 85.



Ernie Woodhall

Mr Woodhall, who followed in his late father's footsteps as works director at one of Dudley's biggest employers, Ewatts Ltd at Burnt Tree Island, even once rigged up a pulley system for a friend who had broken his arm to exercise his way to recovery.

Mr Woodhall, from Lower Gornal, Dudley, died in Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital, four days after an operation following a diagnosis of bowel cancer.

He started training at the age of 15, under an engineering apprenticeship at W&T Avery, Smethwick. He then became works manager at Ewatts Ltd, where his father, Harold, was works director.

After Harold retired, his son stepped in as works director for the firm. Ernie Woodhall used to lecture in maths and engineering at Dudley Technical College, as well as working at Ewatts.

His daughter, Janice said: “He was always on the go and did a lot of gardening and DIY and went out fixing things for himself and other people.” Keen angler Mr Woodhall died on March 20. His funeral was held at Gornal Wood Crematorium.

## Drama group in appeal

A NEW drama group in Dudley is looking for more members. Hippo Drama Group is aimed at people who have little or no stage experience. It wants people to join ahead of their first production Dinnerladies.

Based at St Augustine of Hippo Church, Hallchurch Road, Holy Hall, Dudley, members meet on Tuesdays from 7 to 9pm and costs £2 per week. Members must be 16 or over. There will be an open evening on April 16. Call 07954 692593.

## Booted up for walks



From left, Tracy Wood and Michael Cliff, from Action Heart, with Dawn Smith outside Himley Hall

RAMBLERS are lacing up for an annual walking festival which kicks off later this month.

The Dudley Walking Festival, which attracts thousands, includes springtime walks across the borough one of which is the popular Dudley Borough Trail.

It will start with a charity bluebell walk at Cotwall End Valley on April 27.

The walk is free but participants are asked to make a small donation to the Georgina unit at Russells Hall Hospital.

On April 28 walkers can enjoy the wildflower in a wander around Saltwells while on April 29 there

will be the chance to join the Leasowes trail in Halesowen. Residents can discover a historical Himley Hall and Park with a gentle walk around its stunning grounds at 10am on April 30.

There will also be a guided tour on the evening at 6.30pm, where participants will explore the park's ancient woodland. On May 2 there will be a circular fitness walk around the Clent Hills.

There will be an easy access trail on May 4 around Himley Hall and Park estate at 2pm and places can be booked by calling 01384 817817.

The festival will conclude on May 5 with the Dudley Borough Trail.

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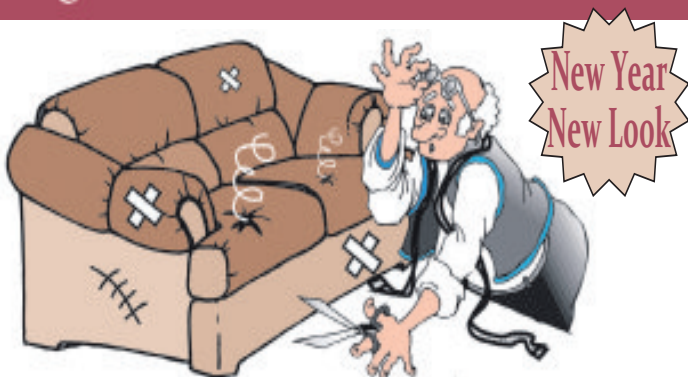
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## NEWS

## Smith is a master of guitar

**John Smith**  
Glee Club, Birmingham  
WALKING unannounced on to the stage Devon singer/songwriter John Smith just gradually dawned on the audience as the opening bars of There is a Stone floated over the top of the packed venue in Birmingham.

If you have heard his latest album, Great Lakes, from which, not surprisingly, most of the set was taken and you think he sounds excellent on that, then hearing his voice and guitar live takes things to a whole other level. Smith's emotional and rollercoaster-style singing which fluctuates perfectly from an almost childlike and soft high-pitched level to a rasping street blues grunt and everything in between is just a sheer pleasure to the ears. The emotion the unassuming singer put into tracks such as the title song was just awesome, keeping the audience entranced with every note. With his song Jasmine, which carried more of a thump from his guitar, his soft but emotive lyrics began to display the quality of his voice.

Another track from his Great Lakes album, Freezing Winds of Change, gave his audience another example of his tremendous guitar skills. He pulled out a fantastic slide guitar into for Town to Town which was atmospheric and reminiscent of the great Ry Cooder.

**Danny Farragher**

## Dementia staff recruited as service is struggling to cope

**MORE staff have been recruited for Dudley's dementia service to keep waiting times under control as it struggled to meet demand from people needing help.**

The specialist dementia nurse service has seen a "steady increase" in demand over the past two years, health bosses said. This has seen waiting times for dementia sufferers increase to eight weeks, double the four-week target.

Andrew Hindle, the dementia lead at Dudley's Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "Such has been the success of the new service that the Clinical Commissioning Group is increasing the workforce of the specialist dementia nurses to ensure waiting times from referral to assessment are kept within four weeks."

## Specialist

There are currently two specialist dementia nurses and a third has now started work.

A full-time administrator for the service will also begin work this month – a job which is currently carried out by part-time workers.

The service is used to diagnose people with dementia and those diagnosed are referred to the Dudley Dementia Gateways where they are assigned a specialist advisor.

## by Mark Mudie

The Gateways advisor then helps them and their family or carer with access to support and advice.

Dudley has 24 beds that can be used by dementia patients, including a dedicated unit of six beds at Tiled House, Pensnett.

The Clinical Commissioning Group has also said it will look at getting an extra six beds and encouraging more people to be cared for in their own homes where possible.

Figures published by the group show up to 70 per cent of hospital beds are occupied by older people with up to half of them having dementia or similar problems. When people with dementia are admitted for treatment, they also tend to stay in hospital for longer than people undergoing the same treatment but not suffering from dementia. It is estimated that there are just under 4,000 people suffering with dementia in the Dudley borough, with almost half of them not yet diagnosed.



Jennie Plant, aged 21, who is travelling to Morocco next year as part of a group

## Jennie is bound for Morocco

A DUDLEY law student has been given a brief to jet out to Morocco and help build a new education centre in a remote part of the country.

Jennie Plant, aged 21, from Kingswinford, is joining an 18-strong party of trainee legal eagles from Nottingham University for the trip which starts in June 2014.

They will be heading to for the Ouzguita region of Morocco in the shadow of the Atlas Mountains for the gruelling two week challenge.

The "Big Build", has been organised by the charity Childreach International. Jennie has to find £1,700 to cover various costs.

To help Jennie visit [www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jennie](http://www.mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jennie) and search for Jennie or email her at [jplant@live.co.uk](mailto:jplant@live.co.uk).

## Fines for littering are rising

THE number of council fines issued for littering has soared in the past three years, with Dudley Council handing out more than 380 according to new figures.

Local authorities have handed out hundreds of on-the-spot penalties after wardens caught them in the act of dropping rubbish and litter on to the streets.

Dudley Council issued 387 fines, making £50,076, while Cannock Chase issued 245 fines. Of those, 136 were handed out between April and December last year. The council made £7,790 but £2,460 remained unpaid.

In Sandwell 3,972 fines were issued between 2010 and 2012 but between April and December last year just three were issued.

The council has made £137,385 in litter fines over three years but £85,107 was outstanding at the end of 2012. The council said the amount represented "cases that have been closed for various acceptable reasons".

## Website ready to give funds

A WEBSITE has launched a follow-up to its Grow Your Tenner campaign.

Under the Spring for a Year scheme, a £12,500 pot is available for community and voluntary groups in Birmingham and the Black Country. Go to [www.localgiving.com/birmingham-match](http://www.localgiving.com/birmingham-match).

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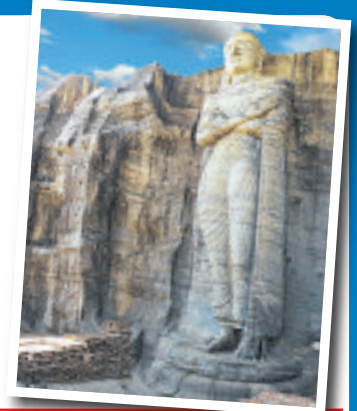
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Some of the other included tours are to the 600 foot granite tower called Sigiriya, or the Lion Rock, known for its ancient murals of 'cloud maidens'; to Kandy, Sri Lanka's last Royal capital; to the amazing cave temples of Dambulla, a UN World Heritage site; and to a well-known tea estate and spice garden, staying at the four-star Grand Hotel, originally the summer home of one of the Governors of Ceylon.

For a different sort of experience, two nights are reserved at the Safari Hotel, which has a pool, bar and restaurant overlooking the Tiffa Lake. Just 45 minutes from the Yala National Park this is the base for an early morning start to the jeep safari in the hope of seeing leopard, elephants, saltwater crocodiles, wild boar, sloth bears, monitor lizards and a huge variety of birdlife. The three-star superior Palms Hotel in the beach resort of Beruwela is the final port of call, allowing for two days of rest and relaxation before the journey home.



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## OUT AND ABOUT

# Relics of the Romans and an icon of rock

**NEW** blockbuster exhibitions are proving a huge draw at two of London's most famous museums, offering an insight into the lives of Roman communities frozen in time and a look at the creative genius of a rock legend.

At the British Museum, Life and Death Pompeii and Herculaneum brings together more than 250 fascinating relics, including many recent discoveries, from the Roman towns smothered by volcanic ash in AD 79 when Mount Vesuvius erupted.

## Family

The display recreates a typical Roman home with many items that would be familiar today, from tweezers to a baby's cradle. With their liking for food and drink, petty squabbles and politics revealed by graffiti, love of family shown in portraits, this reveals the Romans as very similar to us. That is poignant when seeing the resin and plaster casts of Romans frozen at the moment of death, including a family, parents thrown back by explosive heat as a child attempts to escape. Life and Death Pompeii and Herculaneum continues until September 29.

At The Victoria and Albert Museum, David Bowie is will delight fans of the chameleon rock star who recently returned to the limelight with his first album in ten years. Putting the Bowie phenomena into a cultural context, fans will relish the chance to see iconic costumes – including Ziggy Stardust outfits – and read original handwritten lyrics including scribbled out alternative lines. The display ends in a hall of giant video screens, like a cathedral dedicated to Bowie. It continues until August 11. Best to book ahead as ticket demand is massive.



Wall painting of the baker Terentius Neo and his wife from Pompeii, circa AD 50-79

## A home from Holmes on Baker Street

THE PARK Plaza Sherlock Holmes is a stylish modern hotel in a period Baker Street building, which pays tribute to its illustrious fictional Victorian neighbour.

The homage to Holmes can be seen in works of art inspired by the Great Detective, from a deer-stalker clad bust behind the bar to contemporary art in Sherlock's Grill. The family-friendly restaurant doubles as location for traditional buffet breakfast and evening eatery of this boutique hotel.

With its charcoal grill and wood-fired oven, the AA rosette restaurant specialises in contemporary British cuisine made with fresh, UK-sourced ingredients. This

includes dishes such as Cornish crab, West Country beef steaks, apple and sultana crumble with cinnamon ice cream.

The hotel has 119 rooms, including impressive split-level loft suites suitable for a family of four. These have queen-sized bed, sofa bed, two toilets, two TVs, bath and walk-in shower.

The hotel has a central location on bustling Baker Street, a short walk from Madame Tussauds, Oxford Street, the Sherlock Holmes Museum and Baker St Underground Station. See the website [www.parkplaza.com/sherlockholmes](http://www.parkplaza.com/sherlockholmes), call 0207 486 6161 or email [ppsh@pphe.com](mailto:ppsh@pphe.com).



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# What's On! Halesowen

## Play is driven by wonderful acting

**Driving Miss Daisy**  
The Grand, W-hampton.  
ONCE in a while you will see all the gears mesh perfectly and it happened with Driving Miss Daisy starring Gwen Taylor, Don Warrington and Ian Porter.

This tightly-scripted piece was pure theatrical magic. Ian Porter was wonderful as Miss Daisy's son Boolie Werthan, Gwen Taylor as Miss Daisy was incredible but without doubt, from his first line, Don Warrington as chauffeur Hoke Coleburn was superb.

The Grand has struck gold with this production of the gentle but incisive comedy which is without doubt one of the best shows the it has staged.

A minimal set and clever lighting created the atmosphere of the passing of years in Atlanta to the extent you didn't so much notice them as feel them as the stubborn Miss Daisy is forced to acknowledge the march of time.

Through her son Boolie she and Hoke are thrown together between 1948 and 1973 and the crisp dialogue between them is wonderfully amusing and endearing, the comedy throughout is gentle but no less effective for that. It was a brave man who dared to step into the great Morgan Freeman's shoes after the success of the film but Warrington nailed it with class, superb acting and a gorgeous hint of irreverence.

It runs until Saturday, so while you have the chance to see a production as near perfect as it gets, take it.

**Danny Farragher**

# Deadpan comedy from a star-spangled grouch



Downbeat American comedian Rich Hall

**THE FROWN** from cowtown comes to Wolverhampton next week when deadpan American stand-up comic **Rich Hall** brings his keen-eyed observations on the absurd and ironic on both sides of the Atlantic.

The downbeat comedian, who divides his time between Montana and London, has become a popular regular on British TV panel shows, including QI, Never Mind The Buzzcocks and Have I Got News For You.

## West

He has also presented a series of wry documentaries for BBC TV looking at the Hollywood image of the American West, Deep South and the native American.

The comedian, also known for his redneck alter-ego Otis Lee Crenshaw, will present An Evening with Rich Hall at the Wulfrun Hall on Thursday, April 18. Tickets cost £15. Call 0870 320 7000.

## Kung fu and opera

**THE Shaolin Warriors**, showing their kung fu skills at Wolverhampton Grand on Sunday (4pm).

English Touring Opera sing Mozart's *Così Fan Tutte* in English at the Grand on Monday and Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra* in Italian on Tuesday.

Favourite showtunes will be sung in *Beyond The Barriade* at the Grand on Thursday, April 18.



Million dollar quintet – superstar Welsh mezzo soprano Katherine Jenkins will join top 'opera' group Il Divo in concert at the LG Arena, Birmingham, on Saturday night

## Diva and Il Divo in concert

IN one of the most eagerly anticipated classical crossover concerts of the year, opera diva Katherine Jenkins and top 'opera' quartet Il Divo will unite at the LG Arena on Saturday.

The Welsh mezzo soprano and the phenomenal four have more than 30 million album sales between them, and will be performing in concert together for the first time on this tour.

Both Il Divo and Katherine Jenkins will perform classical interpretations of popular songs with an orchestra, and will also come together for duets.

Ticket prices range from £35 to £85, plus booking and transaction fees. Call the ticket hotline on 0844 338 800.

## Duo could go far in the folk world

**Gren Bartley & Julia Disney**

**Newhampton Folk Club**  
JULIA Disney was back on home turf with Gren Bartley in the upper room of the Newhampton pub, Wolverhampton which hosts a regular folk club.

They opened with Wayward Stars, a soft, melodic ballad which straight away showed Gren's talent for words as well as guitar playing with Julia providing backing on keyboard.

She showed more of her versatility providing the vocal harmonies for Gren on the more upbeat Kings and Queens.

Classically trained Julia then moved on to her first instrument, the fiddle, for a couple of numbers one of which was, *My Time Is Nearly Over*. Gren wrote this inspired by a chain gang and during which he used his guitar to great effect with Julia providing the accents.

Gren then pulled out *Between the Lines* about suicide, not the easiest of subjects to broach, and yet it had a surprisingly upbeat sound and again the two worked wonderfully together with Gren's smooth voice and Julia providing an underpinning of a slightly classical violin sound. Both these musicians are excellent in their own right but together they make up a duo which could go far in the folk world and are easily on a par with Roberts and Lakeman.

**Danny Farragher**

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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 13.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

### CHOICE



Hazel Irvine

#### Golf: The Masters - Live BBC2, 7.30pm

The Masters continues this evening with the third round at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the leaderboard should start to take shape on what is often referred to as 'moving day'. The players no longer have any fear of missing the cut and are able to concentrate on challenging the leaders in the first Major of the year, which was won in 2012 by Bubba Watson. The American claimed the biggest victory of his career following a play-off with South African Louis Oosthuizen, but the pre-tournament favourite this year was Tiger Woods.

### BBC1

**6.00** Live Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix - Qualifying. **8.30** Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. (R) **12.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix - Qualifying Replay. **2.15** Golf: The Masters - Highlights. **3.30** Final Score. **5.15** Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) **5.45** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

**6.00** **Doctor Who**. The time travellers find themselves on a damaged Russian nuclear submarine in 1983 as it spirals out of control into the ocean depths - but the Doctor is not the only alien present.

**6.45** **The Voice UK**. The third round of the chair-spinning singing contest, with coaches Tom Jones, Jessie J, Will.i.am and Danny O'Donoghue aiming to bolster their teams.

**8.20** **The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins**. Nick Knowles hosts the game show in which two pairs of strangers team up, each battling to outdo the other by listing as much as they know about a given subject.

**9.10** **Casualty**. Zoe goes out of her way to help and protect a young girl she believes is at risk, while Fletcher deals with a man whose lifestyle is damaging his health.

**10.00** BBC News; Weather.

**10.20** Match of the Day; National Lottery Update.

**11.35** The Football League Show.

**12.55** Film: Highlander: The Source. (2007) **2.15** Weatherview.

**2.20** BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00** This Is BBC Two. **7.05** Film: The First of the Few. (1942) Wartime biopic, directed by and starring Leslie Howard. **9.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.30** The Beechgrove Garden. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Climbing Great Buildings. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Indian Food Made Easy. (R) **12.30** The Sky at Night. (R) **12.50** Coast. **1.00** University Challenge. (R) **1.30** Just a Minute. (R) **2.00** Film: I Know Where I'm Going! (1945) Romantic drama, starring Wendy Hiller and Roger Livesey. **3.30** Flog It! **4.30** The Great British Sewing Bee. (R) **5.30** The Story of Are You Being Served? (R)

**6.30** **Are You Being Served?** The staff rally round to keep Captain Peacock's shameful secret from his wife - but his own solution to the problem takes Mr Humphries' breath away. (R)

**7.00** **Dad's Army**. Private Pike receives his call-up papers and unexpectedly passes his medical, much to the horror of his mollycoddling mother. (R)

**7.30** **Golf: The Masters - Live**. Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the third day of the year's first Major, held at the Augusta National in Georgia, where Bubba Watson was victorious in 2012. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**12.00** Film: In Dreams. (1999) Thriller, starring Annette Bening.

**1.35** This Is BBC Two. **5.50** Film: The Story of GI Joe. (1945) A war reporter recounts his experiences of travelling with an American military unit through the Italian campaign. Second World War drama, with Burgess Meredith.

### ITV

**6.00** CITV: Jungle Junction. **6.15** Jungle Junction. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** The Animals. (R) **7.15** The Animals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. (R) **7.35** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **7.50** Kick Butowski - Suburban Daredevil. **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.55** Figaro Phoo. (R) **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.25** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.25** Dinner Date. (R) **12.25** ITV News; Weather.

**12.30** Film: Columbo: Identity Crisis. (1975) **2.30** The Chase. (R) **3.30** Midsomer Murders. (R) **5.30** Regional Programme: Weather.

**5.45** ITV News; Weather.

**6.00** **New You've Been Framed!** and **Famous 4**. Harry Hill narrates a fresh selection of comical mishaps filmed by viewers on their webcams, mobile phones and camcorders, featuring a range of celebrity lookalikes.

**7.00** **Britain's Got Talent**. New series. Ant and Dec present the first auditions as performers of all ages try to impress Simon Cowell. David Walliams, Alesha Dixon and Amanda Holden.

**8.35** **The Cube**. Two more contestants take on the challenge. Last in the series.

**9.35** **The Jonathan Ross Show**. With Martin and Gary Kemp and music by Suede.

**10.35** ITV News; Weather.

**10.50** FA Cup Football Highlights.

**11.35** **Piers Morgan's Life Stories**: Paul Gascoigne. (R)

**12.30** Jacquot247. **3.00** Ladette to Lady: Australia. (R) **3.50** ITV

Nightscreen.

### CHANNEL 4

**6.00** The Treacle People. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** VW Racing Cup. **7.30** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.25** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.25** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **11.50** The Simpsons. (R) **12.25** Secret Millionaire Ireland. **1.30** Secret Millionaire Ireland. **1.30** Channel 4 News. **1.30** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.35** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.35** Come Dine with Me. (R)

**6.05** **Channel 4 News**.

**6.30** **Sarah Beeny's Selling Houses**. Homeowners in Muswell Hill, north London, look around one another's flats for improvement ideas and then spruce up their own on a £1,000 budget, hoping to attract buyers.

**7.30** **Grand Designs**. Kevin McCloud meets a couple transforming 5,000sq ft of derelict basement in west London - but without proper architects' drawings, confusion kicks in almost from the start. (R)

**8.30** **Walking Through History**. The Tudor heritage of the Weald in Kent and the Downs of East Sussex.

**9.30** **Film: Get Him to the Greek**. (2010) Premiere. A record company employee is given the dubious task of escorting a sex-crazed British rock star to his comeback concert. Comedy, starring Russell Brand and Jonah Hill.

**11.35** **Darren Brown Investigates: The Man Who Contacts the Dead**. (R)

**12.40** Film: The Black Dahlia. (2006) **2.45** Hollyoaks. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.50** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Monkey Life. (R) **11.45** Roif's Animal Clinic. (R) **12.45** Emergency Bikers. (R) **1.45** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **2.45** Film: Police Academy 4: Citizens on Patrol. (1987) **4.25** Film: Rocky III. (1982)

**6.20** **Film: The Magnificent Seven**. (1972) The one-time leader of the gunslungers assembles a new band of mercenaries to avenge the deaths of his wife and friend. Western sequel, starring Lee Van Cleef.

**8.05** **5 News Weekend**.

**8.10** **NCIS**. Gibbs and his team investigate the bizarre deaths of a Marine and two of his friends, while Ziva tries to rejoin the NCIS. Starring Mark Harmon. (R)

**9.10** **NCIS**. A blogger who accused the NCIS of a cover-up is found dead, and Gibbs and his team are forced to reopen a closed case to find the killer. Starring Mark Harmon and Michael Weatherly. (R)

**10.10** **Law & Order: Special Victims Unit**. Stabler and Benson investigate the death of a 17-year-old girl and discover a suspect in the case may have been deliberately passing on the HIV virus to his many sexual partners.

**11.05** **Law & Order: Criminal Intent**.

**12.00** SuperCasino. **4.05** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.40** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes 2: The Sequel **7.15** Merlin **8.00** Top Gear **9.00** Film: Enemy of the State (1998) **11.05** Family Guy **11.50** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** South Pacific **8.00** David Attenborough's First Life **9.00** Arne Dahl: The Blind Man - Part Two **11.40** Synth Britannia at the BBC

**ITV2**  
**3.30** You've Been Framed! **6.00** Film: E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **8.35** Britain's Got More Talent **9.35** You've Been Framed and Famous! **10.35** Celebrity Juice **11.20** Plebs **11.50** Britain's Got Talent

**ITV3**  
**2.25** Film: To Kill a Mockingbird (1963) **5.00** Agatha Christie's Marple **7.00** Lewis **9.00** The Suspicions of Mr Whicher **11.00** A Is for Acid

**ITV4**  
**11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. **8.00** River Monsters. Jeremy Wade tries to find a mysterious predatory creature in the Zambezi river. **9.05** Film: Sudden Death (1995) **11.20** Film: The Thing (1982)

**E4**  
**5.30** The Mindy Project **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Youngers **7.30** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** 2 Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Black Knight (2001) **10.55** The Big Bang Theory **11.55** The Cleveland Show

**Film4**  
**2.20** Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind (1984) **4.50** Silent Running (1971) **6.35** Oblivion Interview Special **6.40** Planet of the Apes (1968) **8.50** Oblivion Interview Special **9.00** Alien (1979) **11.25** Vanilla Sky (2001)

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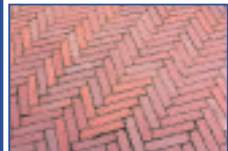


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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 14.04.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

## CHOICE



Susie Wolff

**Driven: The Fastest Woman in the World BBC2, 5.30pm**

We've heard a lot, lately, about gender equality in the workplace. And rightly so – women are just as capable as men, and should certainly have the same opportunities. So why is it that no woman has competed in Formula 1 since 1976? It seems remarkable that, in this area at least, no progress seems to have been made whatsoever. But now, there's a new petrol-headed heroine: Oban-based racing driver Susie Wolff, who is aiming to become the first woman in almost 40 years to start a grand prix.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **7.00** Live Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix. **10.15** The Big Questions. **11.15** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.35** Points of View. **12.50** Britain's Maharajah. **1.20** Bargain Hunt. **2.20** Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix Replay. **4.20** Escape to the Country. **4.30** Coast. **5.30** Songs of Praise.

**6.05** **Deadly 60 on a Mission.** Hyenas, baboons, buffalo and eagles in Africa.

**6.35** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**7.00** **Countryfile.** A visit to the eastern county of Suffolk, where Matt Baker finds out about the area's boating heritage, and JLS singer JB Gill seeks advice on farming from Adam Henson. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

**8.00** **Antiques Roadshow.** A return visit to Cheltenham Town Hall, where objects include a silver fruit bowl damaged in a domestic row and relics of Captain Scott's last expedition to the South Pole. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations.

**9.00** **The Village.** As call-up papers are delivered throughout the village, Eyre faces a tribunal for being a conscientious objector, and Grace worries when there is no news of Joe from the front line.

**10.00** **BBC News:** Regional News; Weather.

**10.25** **Match of the Day 2.**

**11.25** **Regional Programme.**

**11.55** **Film: New Jack City.** (1991) Action thriller, starring Wesley Snipes.

**1.30** **Weatherview.** **1.35** **BBC News.**

## BBC2

**7.40** **Match of the Day.** (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **11.30** Paul Hollywood's Bread. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.50** Coast. **2.00** Great British Food Revival. (R) **2.30** The Great Rift: Africa's Wild Heart. (R) **3.30** Secrets of Our Living Planet. (R) **4.30** Coast. (R) **5.30** Driven: The Fastest Woman in the World.

**6.30** **Golf: The Masters – Live.** Hazel Irvine presents coverage of the fourth and final day at the Augusta National in Georgia, where the winner of the first Major of the year will be confirmed. Bubba Watson won the biggest title of his career to date here in 2012, holding his nerve to defeat Louis Oosthuizen in a play-off. Lee Westwood led the British charge, finishing in a share of third place alongside Peter Hanson, Matt Kuchar and Phil Mickelson. Hanson was in the lead heading into the last day, but the Swede fired a 73 that allowed Watson and Oosthuizen to move past him into the top two positions. Commentary by Peter Alliss, Ken Brown, Andrew Cotter and Wayne Grady and reports from Rishi Persad. Subsequent programmes subject to change.

**12.00** **Film: The Haunting.** (1999) Three insomniacs are lured to a reputedly haunted house, where they are made to confront their deepest fears. Horror remake, with Liam Neeson, Lili Taylor and Catherine Zeta-Jones. **1.45** Sign Zone: A Very British Wedding. (R) **2.45** Holby City. Malik is presented with a great career opportunity – but it will mean leaving Holby and his son behind. (R) **3.45** This Is BBC Two.

## ITV

**6.00** CITV: Jungle Junction. **6.15** Jungle Junction. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **6.55** Dino Dan. (R) **7.05** Animals. (R) **7.15** Animals. (R) **7.20** Bookaboo. (R) **7.30** Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles. **8.00** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **8.10** Kick Buttowski – Suburban Daredevil. **8.25** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.40** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.55** Figaro Pho. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. (R) **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. (R) **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** ITV News; Weather. **11.30** Dinner Date. (R) **12.30** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **2.35** Food! Glorious Food. (R) **3.30** Live FA Cup Football.

**6.15** **Regional Programme;** Weather.

**6.30** **ITV News;** Weather.

**6.45** **Catchphrase.**

**7.30** **Off Their Rockers.**

**8.00** **Endeavour.** New series. Inspector Morse prequel, starring Shaun Evans as a younger version of the detective. Endeavour investigates the death of a respectable GP found in a public lavatory.

**10.00** **Perspectives: Paul O'Grady: Gypsy Rose Lee – the Queen of Burlesque.** The presenter explores the life of burlesque performer Gypsy Rose Lee.

**11.00** **ITV News;** Weather.

**11.15** **FA Cup Football Highlights.** Chelsea v Manchester City.

**12.00** **Premiership Rugby Union.**

**12.55** **The Store.** **2.55** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.45** Monk. (R) **4.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** River Cottage Bites. (R) **6.10** The Treacle People. (R) **6.20** The Hoobs. (R) **6.45** The Hoobs. (R) **7.10** Will & Grace. (R) **7.35** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.35** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.05** The Simpsons. (R) **1.40** Film: The Addams Family. (1991) **3.40** Deal or No Deal. **4.40** Channel 4 News. **5.10** Film: Diary of a Wimpy Kid. (2010)

**7.00** **Five Minutes to a Fortune.** Celebrity pairs Jo Brand and Meera Syal, and Rachel Riley and Russell Kane try to complete five-minute challenges in a bid to raise money for charity.

**8.00** **The Secret Millions.** Katie Piper works with a charity helping to rehabilitate ex-convicts by employing them to manufacture and market high-end furniture after their release from prison.

**9.00** **My Big Fat Gypsy Fortune.** Documentary revealing the secrets of the Traveller economy, showing how those in the community earn their money and fund the extravagant ceremonies seen in Big Fat Gypsy Weddings.

**10.00** **Film: Juno.** (2007) A teenager who gets pregnant after a one-night stand with her best friend goes in search of the perfect parents to adopt her baby. Comedy, starring Ellen Page.

**11.50** **Film: Cocktail.** (1988) Drama, starring Tom Cruise.

**1.40** **Southland.** (R) **2.20** St Elsewhere. (R) **3.05** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.00** Deal or No Deal. (R) **4.55** Countdown. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowertots. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Chloe's Closet. **6.55** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.00** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.15** Animal Antics. (R) **7.20** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.35** Mio Mao. (R) **7.40** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Castle Farm. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.40** Milkshake! Show Songs. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.15** Toby's Travelling Circus. (R) **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **9.55** The Mr Men Show. (R) **10.10** Power Rangers: Super Samurai. (R) **10.45** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Disney Shorts: How to Play Football. (R) **11.20** Monkey Life. (R) **11.50** Cowboy Builders. (R) **12.50** Film: Practical Magic. (1998) **2.55** Film: The Secret Garden. (1993) **5.00** Film: Stepmom. (1998)

**7.15** **5 News Weekend.**

**7.20** **Film: Big Daddy.** (1999) Comedy, starring Adam Sandler.

**9.00** **Once Upon a Time.** Regina regains her magical powers.

**10.00** **Person of Interest.** A National Security Agency analyst learns of the Machine's existence.

**11.00** **Film: Ultraviolet.** (2006) Futuristic thriller, starring Milla Jovovich.

**12.45** Campus PD. **1.15** SuperCasino. **4.00** Wildlife SOS. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.25** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.35** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **5.50** Hana's Helpline. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Formula 1: The Chinese Grand Prix Highlights. **8.00** The Voice UK. **9.30** Barely Legal Drivers. **10.30** Family Guy. **11.15** American Dad!

**BBC Four**  
**7.00** The First Master Chef: Michel Roux on EscOFFER. **8.00** The Century That Wrote Itself. **9.00** When Frost Met Bakewell. Joan Bakewell at 80.

**10.00** Bakewell at the BBC. **11.00** Motor Racing at the BBC: That Petrol Emotion. **11.30** Imagine: Tom Jones – What Good Am I?

**ITV2**  
**3.40** Britain's Got Talent. **5.15** Britain's Got More Talent. **6.15** Film: Kangaroo Jack (2003). **8.00** You've Been Framed! Family Special. **9.00** Film: The Shawshank Redemption (1994). **11.50** Celebrity Juice.

**ITV3**  
**3.45** Lewis. **5.50** Inspector Morse. **8.00** Film: Housessister (1991). Romantic comedy, starring Steve Martin. **10.05** Blue Murder. **11.40** Film: Doc Hollywood (1991).

**ITV4**  
**11.00** Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Kolkata Knight Riders v Sunrisers Hyderabad and Rajasthan Royals v Kings XI Punjab. **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union. **9.00** Film: The Krays (1990). **11.25** Film: Land of the Dead (2005).

**E4**  
**3.35** How I Met Your Mother. **4.30** Revenge. **5.30** New Girl. **6.00** The Big Bang Theory. **7.30** The Mindy Project. **8.00** Film: Big Momma's House 2 (2006). **10.00** Rude Tube. **11.00** The Body Shocking Show. **11.30** 2 Broke Girls.

**Film4**  
**2.50** Charlotte's Web (2006). **4.40** Three Men and a Cradle (1987). **6.40** Percy Jackson & the Lightning Thief (2010). **8.00** Crash (2004). **11.10** 12 Rounds (2008).

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

**Monday**

**Outlaw, Channel 5, 11pm**

An Iraq war veteran returns to an increasingly lawless England and discovers thugs have taken over his neighbourhood and his wife is having an affair. Pushed to the edge, he assembles and trains disillusioned men to take matters into their own hands and deal with the criminals who have wronged them. Crime drama, starring Sean Bean, Danny Dyer and Bob Hoskins. (2007)

**Tuesday**

**Like Minds, BBC1, 11.35pm**

A prep school student is murdered, and suspicion immediately falls on a classmate who was found standing over the body. A psychologist is brought in to interview the suspect, discovering a strange tale of ancient secret societies and the disturbing bond that developed between the two boys. Crime thriller, starring Toni Collette and Richard Roxburgh. (2006)

**Wednesday**

**Bend It Like Beckham, BBC1, 11.05pm**

An English schoolgirl tries to hide her passion for football from her strict Indian parents, knowing they disapprove of her tomboyish love of the game. However, when a semi-professional player sees her in action, she is offered a place on a team, forcing her to come up with a complex plan to keep her sporting career under wraps. Comedy, with Parminder Nagra, Keira Knightley, Jonathan Rhys Meyers and Juliet Stevenson. (2002)



**Bend It Like Beckham, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.05pm**

**Thursday**

**Exit Wounds, Channel 5, 10pm**

A maverick cop, transferred to a tough new precinct, determines to make a difference to the lawless streets, but he comes to realise his fellow officers are even more corrupt than the local hoods – and are on the verge of completing a major drug deal. Thriller, starring Steven Seagal and Isaiah Washington. (2001)

**Friday**

**Forgetting Sarah Marshall, ITV, 10.35pm**

A musician is devastated when his actress girlfriend leaves him, and he tries to cure his broken heart with a holiday in Hawaii. Unfortunately, his efforts to forget the past are scuppered when his ex turns out to be staying at the same resort, with her new boyfriend – a successful rock star – in tow. Romantic comedy, starring Jason Segel, Kristen Bell and Russell Brand. (2008)

**Butterfly on a Wheel, BBC1, 11.55pm**

A couple expect a ransom demand when their daughter is kidnapped – but the mysterious criminal responsible is not interested in money. Instead, the kidnapper insists they obey his every instruction over the next 24 hours. Thriller, starring Pierce Brosnan. (2007)

### Pick of the Week

## The search for a star to light up our lives

**B**ack in the mid-1970s, when Simon Cowell was a teenager with big dreams of fame and fortune, host Derek Hobson welcomed countless acts to the ATV studios for New Faces.

Although the show was a launch pad for the likes of Lenny Henry and Victoria Wood, in retrospect the format was more like *Phoenix Nights*’ auditions than prime-time Saturday night.

A good idea, but a limited budget, drab set and male-dominated judging panel meant it was in need of glamour and pizzazz. By June 2007 things had changed as Cowell launched his version of the good old-fashioned talent show.

**Britain's Got Talent, ITV, Saturday, 7pm** not only struck a chord with the masses, it became an annual institution.

That first run aired on consecutive nights on ITV1, with the first five shows featuring the audition stages, held in London, Cardiff, Birmingham and Manchester.

The final four episodes were the live semi-finals and final, with opera singer

Paul Potts emerging as the winner of the public vote.

It was watched by more than 11million viewers, so little wonder ITV bosses were left hungry for more. In the years that followed, we've seen dancer George Sampson, dance troupe Diversity, acrobatic outfit Spelbound, singer Jai McDowall, and dancing dog act Ashleigh and Pudsey all clinch victory, with last year's live final on May 12 attracting 12.5million viewers. Ashleigh and Pudsey also went home half-a-million pounds richer thanks to the highest payout in BGT's history.

Which brings us to this year's contest as recent chart-busters Ant and Dec return for another selection of weird and wonderful acts hoping to launch their careers, get their hands (or paws) on that cash, and perform at the Royal Variety Performance in December.

The latest auditions kicked off on January 7 this year, and now is your first chance to see the good, the bad and the downright dreadful. Of course, as Susan Boyle proved, you don't even need to win the show to become a global sensation.

Runners up Stavros Flatley, Twist & Pulse and Paul Burling proved good value for money on home turf, but the viral appeal of Su-Bo's *I Dreamed A Dream* audition not only won a worldwide fanbase, but also helped greenlight an Oscar-winning movie version of *Les Misérables*. Who knows what this year's contestants are capable of achieving?

One woman who's thrilled to be back on the judging panel is Amanda Holden. "I can't wait. It'll be really interesting to see the dynamic and see whether David Walliams will be able to get away with murder like he did last year," she laughs. Along with Messrs McPartlin and Donnelly, Holden is the thread that ties all the series together, honing her way through act after act with THAT laugh, and some often brilliant soundbites, such as her retort to a grumpy Cowell in one episode: "Get back in your cave, Voldemort!"

It's anyone's guess what wonders awaits judges Cowell, Holden, Walliams and Alesha Dixon, but given the show's track record, you can bet it'll be bizarre, occasionally moving and a lot of fun.



**The judges return in Britain's Got Talent, Saturday, ITV, 7pm**

### Best of the Rest

**Monday**  
**Broadchurch**  
**ITV, 9pm**

In recent years, mainstream TV drama has been criticised for dumbing down, for being bland and predictable with little in the way of imagination. But every now and then, a programme comes along that stands out from the crowd thanks to its gripping storyline that keeps viewers guessing right to its final moments – and, we're pleased to say, *Broadchurch* is one such series. We're about to see the penultimate edition, and DI Alec Hardy could certainly use a break as the stresses and strains of finding the culprit continue to take their toll on his fragile health. A vital clue finally turns up that could unlock the mysteries surrounding Danny's death – but who will it implicate?

**The Hoarder Next Door**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

It's that time of year again – the dreaded spring clean. If you've been up to your marigold cuffs in suds and dusters already, only to despair at the amount you've still got left to do, take the time to watch this new documentary series and remember – it could be a whole lot worse! Here, psychotherapist Stelios Kiosses and his team return to help extreme collectors restore order to their homes. First up is Sarah from Dorset, a single mum whose two-bedroom flat is becoming lost beneath a pile of clutter – a fact which doesn't sit well with her teenage son, Ally. Meanwhile, London bachelor Roddy's five-storey home is brimming with ancient newspapers dating back 30 years. Talk about old news.

**Tuesday**  
**The Syndicate**  
**BBC1, 9pm**

This week it's the turn of Alan to learn the hard way that money isn't everything. Alan has made bad decisions in his life and the fact that he suddenly has money doesn't stop him from making those decisions," says Mark Addy, who plays him. Alcoholic Alan has been sober since his wife and kids left him, but he falls off the wagon in spectacular fashion after his numbers come up. He also splashes out on a makeover and various luxury items, but realises he'd prefer to have somebody to share his good fortune with.

**Royal Paintbox**  
**ITV, 10.35pm**

Members of the Royal Family spend much of their home life surrounded by great art. So there's no wonder that a few of them have been inspired by their surroundings to pick up a paintbrush. It's well-known that Prince Charles loves nothing better than dabbling in watercolours while relaxing out of the limelight; it's rather fitting, then, that he will be presenting this one-off documentary which features works by several of his forebears, including Queen Victoria, King George III, Mary Queen of Scots and his own father, the Duke of Edinburgh. The Prince's cousin, Sarah Armstrong Jones, herself a working artist, will also discuss the subject during her first-ever TV interview.

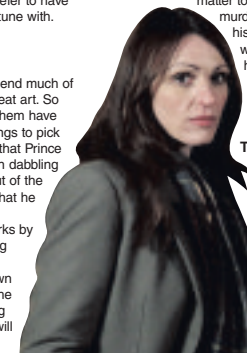
**Wednesday**  
**Scott & Bailey**  
**ITV, 9pm**

Domestic matters loom large this week. Gill's son Sammy announces his engagement, and although she likes his fiancée, Orla, she can't help worry that at 19, he's rushing into such a commitment. Meanwhile, Sean suspects that Rachel has been unfaithful after taking a call from a mystery man, and Janet persuades Ade to live with his new girlfriend before asking her mother to move in with her. Thankfully, the women have a professional matter to distract them, namely the murder of family man Eddie while his wife was away for the weekend. The prime suspect is his son Daniel, until it becomes clear that Eddie was living a double life that made him vulnerable to exploitation.

**Thursday**

**The Intern**  
**Channel 4, 9pm**

It's the eternal Catch-22 of the employment market – you can't get a job because you haven't got the experience, and you can't get the experience because you haven't got a job. Or at least, that's the way it used to be until Hilary Devey decided to shake things up a bit. This week, she's



**Scott & Bailey, Wednesday, ITV, 9pm**

tackling journalism, as 20-year-old Lizzie, 21-year-old John and 27-year-old Dan are given trainee reporter positions on *The Sunday Sport*. The trio have just one week to prove to the editor that they have the drive and tenacity needed to get their names into print and secure a job in one of Britain's most competitive industries.

**Friday**  
**The Ice Cream Girls**  
**ITV, 9pm**

ITV is more than capable of holding its own where top-notch dramas are concerned. In recent weeks, we've been treated to the superb *Lightfields*, and of course there's the one that everyone's talking about – *Broadchurch*. And it's by no means going to dent that reputation with this latest effort. Based on Dorothy Koomson's novel, it follows two women, Serena Gorrington and Poppy Carlisle, who as vulnerable teenagers were accused of murdering their school teacher, Mr Halsley. Seventeen years after that fateful night, Poppy, recently released from prison for the murder, maintains her innocence and is determined to track down her former friend to find out what really happened. Lorraine Burroughs and Jodhi May star.

**Alan Carr: Chatty Man**  
**Channel 4, 10pm**

This week, fun certainly won't be in short supply – for a start, that's the name of his musical guests. The US band fun. will be performing their new single *Alone*. Alan is also joined by comedian Bill Bailey, who will be talking about his latest stand-up tour, the intriguingly named *Quailpeddler*.

# Are you a member of a local voluntary group?

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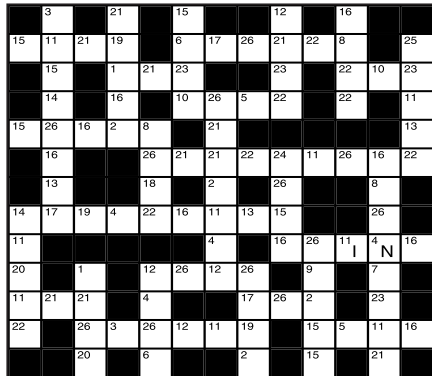


## What's On!

## Brain Gym

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | P | J | T | E | B | X | K | G | C | R | V | H |
| S | I | L | U | W | D | Y | N | A | Z | F | Q | O |

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

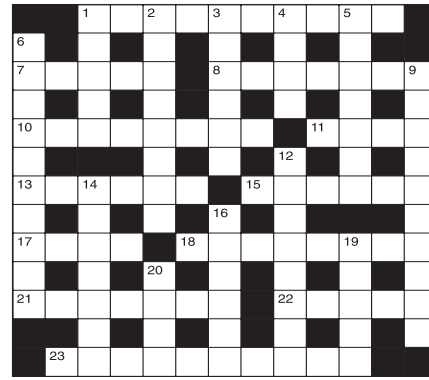
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. Alec shot it, perhaps. Not a friendly deed! (7,3)
7. It counts as a hazard for ramblers (5)
8. Wild at having it turned into foreign currency (7)
10. A count will confirm it (5-3)
11. Long period return to a district (4)
13. Describes a sailor given a mission (6)
15. A practical lesson to be drawn, but not concerned with ethics (6)
17. Drop and damage (4)
18. Give one time for transgression (8)
21. A target, maybe, for yachtsmen (7)
22. Vassal for example caught in falsehood (5)
23. A wife is apparently preferable to nothing at all (6,4)

## Down

1. If you have a complaint you may resort to this (5)
2. Imposing corporal punishment (8)
3. Pouring in, in a state of change (6)
4. Made up cheese (4)
5. He may bring food from the terrace (7)
6. Teacher after a job as a slave - driver (10)
9. A daring aspirant to sporting fame (10)
12. It's always used up when needed (8)
14. It helps an artiste to perform brilliantly (7)
16. I'm not one to weaken (6)
19. It's bound to contain stalks (5)
20. It will be in bad taste to let it stand (4)



## Quick Clues:

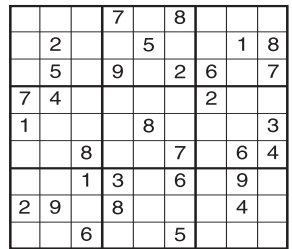
## Across

1. Likeness (10)
7. Plain (5)
8. Prop (7)
10. Foreman (8)
11. Signify (4)
13. Beverage of the gods (6)
15. Mourn (6)
17. Dry (4)
18. Sledge (8)
21. Walked warily (7)
22. Wrong (5)
23. Component (10)

## Down

1. Sift (5)
2. Crack shot (8)
3. Reduce (6)
4. Kind (4)
5. Bishopric (7)
6. Book-keeper (10)
9. Compassion (10)
12. Claim unduly (8)
14. Shoemaker's saint (7)
16. Squalid (6)
19. Sinfulness (5)
20. Rain heavily (4)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS:

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 3 | 9 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 4 |
| 4 | 6 | 1 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 8 | 2 | 3 |
| 2 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 1 | 9 |
| 6 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 4 | 8 |
| 1 | 2 | 8 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 4 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| 5 | 7 | 4 | 8 | 3 | 1 | 9 | 6 | 2 |
| 9 | 3 | 2 | 6 | 4 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 6 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 4 | 3 | 5 |

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 6 Turn out; 7 Droll; 9 Dip; 10 Henrietta; 12 First person; 15 Take your bow; 17 Sprinkler; 19 End; 21 Itchy; 22 Replete. Down: 1 Cupid; 2 One; 3 Mule; 4 Green room; 5 Glutton; 8 Proper; 11 Lighthouse; 13 Stocks; 14 Carpets; 16 Unity; 18 Even; 20 All. QUICK - Across: 6 Proceed; 7 Corps; 9 Use; 10 Annulment; 12 Speculation; 15 Preliminary; 17 Dangerous; 19 New; 21 Loose; 22 Agitate. Down: 1 Dress; 2 Act; 3 Mean; 4 Dormitory; 5 Opinion; 8 Sullen; 18 Urge; 20 Sty.

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\*The "from" price and price bands vary for each show – see brochure for details. Single room supplements apply.

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Please read brochure/web page for full information plus terms and conditions



# Home of Property

Your top property guide for Dudley, Halesowen, Sedgley, Kidderminster and Stourbridge

## Six big bedrooms



The property called Daycot House in Stream Road is on the market for £549,000

**A HUGE period three-storey detached house with six double bedrooms and four/five en suites is for sale priced at £549,000.**

The property - Daycot House in Stream Road, Kingswinford - boasts extended and enlarged accommodation over three floors as well as a massive rear garden which has been landscaped to include extensive lawns, patios including a barbecue area with wooden gazebo, stream water feature and koi carp pool.

On the ground floor the guest cloak-

room has a classic white suite with WC and wash basin, a sitting room measuring 16ft by 14ft with log burner with period style fireplace and a formal dining room - 14ft by 12ft - with Louis-style fireplace and French doors. A breakfast room/snug, 12ft by 11ft, has French doors to the rear garden, with a luxury fitted kitchen measuring 21ft 6in by 11ft.

On the first floor three of the bedrooms have en suites, and there is a fourth bedroom and house bathroom with P-shaped bath with shower and screen, wash basin and WC while on the second floor bedroom five has an

en-suite and bedroom six a potential en suite.

Outside the property is set well back from the road behind a wall with double gates to a full width tarmac driveway providing parking for several vehicles and leading to a garage, and alongside is a landscaped garden.

The rear garden is some 200ft long with a printed concrete patio, low-level wall, lawns with wood chipped borders, central circular paving, wooden gazebo with tiled roof covering a barbecue area with patio, koi pool and timber decked platform. Call Taylors on 01384 401777 for more details.

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### ABBNEY ROAD, SMETHWICK



3 bed semi with garage & parking  
Close to warley park & oldbury border  
Two reception rooms, kitchen  
Front & enclosed rear garden  
Benefitting DBG & gas central heating  
No upward chain. EPC rating: E  
**£184,950** Ref: D1296

### ABBNEY CRESCENT, OLDBURY



Semi-det home with 3 good size bedrooms  
15ft lounge, 14ft kitchen & downstairs wc  
No upward chain - vacant possession  
majority upvc DG & gas central heating  
Generous lawn rear garden  
Part paved frontage - EPC rating: C  
**£137,500** Ref: D1295

### PITFIELDS ROAD, OLDBURY



Superbly presented & extended semi  
20ft kitchen/diner/family room, Sep. lounge  
3 generous bedrooms & refitted bathroom  
Rear garden & parking to front for two cars.  
UPVC DBG & gas central heating  
Internal inspection essential EPC rating...  
**£124,995** Ref: D1291

### MERTON CLOSE, OLDBURY



Spacious 2/3 bed home in cul-de-sac  
Refitted breakfast kitchen & lounge diner  
Downstairs wc & 2nd floor family bathroom  
Driveway to front & private garden to rear  
UPVC DG & GCH  
EPC rating: D  
**£119,950** Ref: D1287

### BODENHAM ROAD, OLDBURY



Semi-det home with 3 good size bedrooms  
Driveway giving off road parking  
16ft9 dining kitchen & 13ft8 lounge  
Family bathroom with fitted white suite  
Gas central heating & majority upvc DG  
Lawned garden to rear. EPC Rating: D  
**£104,950** Ref: D1290

### PERRY HILL ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended & immaculate 3 bed home  
2 receptions, breakfast kitchen & utility  
Conservatory & refitted d/s shower room  
Refitted u/s bathroom with roll top bath  
Private garden with westerly aspect  
Driveway & garage. EPC rating: E  
**£189,950** Ref: D1243

### GRAFTON ROAD, OLDBURY



Detached home with no upward chain  
18ft lounge with separate dining room  
Refitted kitchen with built in appliances  
Refitted bathroom & 3 good size bedrooms  
Blockpaved & driveway for several cars  
UPVC DG & GCH. EPC rating D  
**£169,950** Ref: D1273

### WOODGATE LANE, BARTLEY GREEN



Semi-det home with 3 generous size beds  
Refitted kitchen with downstairs wc  
Lounge diner & family bathroom  
GCH & majority upvc double glazing  
Gravelled frontage & lawn rear garden  
EPC rating: G  
**£119,950** Ref: D1286

### PARKES STREET, SMETHWICK



Well presented 3 bed terraced home  
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating  
Lounge & open plan kitchen/dining room  
Downstairs bathroom with white suite  
2 double & one single bedroom on first floor  
EPC rating: D  
**£88,950** Ref: D1262

### FRANKLEY AVENUE, HALESOWEN



Four bed extended home with garage  
Extended kitchen & UPVC conservatory  
20ft max lounge & separate dining room  
Master fitted bedroom with ensuite shower  
Three further bedrooms & family bathroom  
Block paved driveway & garage. EPC rating E  
**£209,950** Ref: D1182

### PRINCES WAY, OLDBURY



Spacious 3 double bedroom home  
15ft lounge/diner & UPVC conservatory  
Fitted kitchen & downstairs WC  
Family bathroom & ensuite shower rm  
Parking spaces in cul-de-sac location  
UPVC DG & GCH  
**£149,950** Ref: D1207

### HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



End terraced home with gardens  
2 double bedrooms & bathroom  
2 separate reception rooms  
Kitchen & lean to utility room  
UPVC DG & GCH  
Courtyard & lawned garden. EPC rating D  
**Offers in excess of £100,000** Ref: D1225

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## Foxyards Road, Tipton



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**Offers Over £160,000**

A detached three bedroom house with garage, off road parking, front and rear gardens. Situated on a corner plot. Viewing is essential.

## Denbigh Close, Dudley



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**Offers Over £110,000**

Semi detached two bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen/diner, bathroom, gardens and driveway.

## Elwell Crescent, Dudley



NEW

EPC Awaiting

**Offers Over £90,000**

End terraced property comprising entrance hall, lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs WC, upstairs shower room, rear garden and driveway.

## School Drive, Bilston



EPC C

**£85,000**

A three bedroom semi detached property benefitting from two reception rooms, kitchen, upstairs bathroom and rear garden.

## Ambleside Close, Bradley



EPC C

**Offers Over £80,000**

A two bedroom terraced property briefly comprising lounge, kitchen/diner, bathroom, front and rear gardens, driveway and allocated parking.

## Worcester Road, Dudley



EPC E

**Offers Over £80,000**

Semi detached three bedroom property briefly comprising downstairs shower room, lounge, kitchen, upstairs WC and rear gardens.

## Attingham Drive, Dudley



EPC C

**Offers Over £70,000**

End terraced three bedroom property briefly comprising lounge, modern kitchen, downstairs WC, family bathroom and rear garden.

## Ross, Rowley Regis



EPC D

**Offers Over £160,000**

A modern detached bungalow with lounge, two bedrooms, gardens, driveway and garage. Halesowen.

## Graingers Lane, Cradley Heath



EPC Awaiting

**Guide £150,000 - £200,000**

This individual property offers a variety of accommodation comprising a shop on the front, garage and carport. Halesowen.

## Powke Lane, Rowley Regis



EPC C

**Offers Over £140,000**

This modern terraced house has the following accommodation. Comprising lounge/diner, kitchen two bedrooms and family bathroom. Halesowen.

## Wiltshire Drive, Halesowen



EPC D

**OIRO £110,000**

Modern semi detached property situated in a cul-de-sac. The property comprises kitchen, three bedrooms, front and rear garden. Halesowen.

## Spring Street, Halesowen



EPC E

**Offers Over £100,000**

Mid terraced property comprising two reception rooms, breakfast room, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms and rear garden. Halesowen.

## Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath



EPC E

**Offers Over £90,000**

End terraced house comprising lounge/diner, kitchen, three bedrooms, bathroom, separate toilet and rear garden. Halesowen.

## St. James Avenue, Rowley Regis



EPC C

**£84,000**

Modern semi detached property comprising lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom, drive, garage, front and rear gardens. Halesowen.

## Victoria Road, Halesowen



EPC C

**£70,000**

This is a well presented first floor apartment with accommodation comprising lounge, kitchen, bedroom and allocated parking. Halesowen.



# Home of Property Redevelopment of listed manor

**AWARD-winning Black Country developer Selbourne Homes is set to start work on a prestigious housing scheme in the grounds of an historic Midlands manor house following a six year wait to gain planning permission.**

The unique development of 14 three-, four- and five-bedroom houses at the Grade II listed Wordsley Manor has been sympathetically designed to respect the historic setting.

As part of the scheme, Selbourne will be carrying out work to protect and preserve the 18th century manor house for future generations, as well as the natural habitat for the area's wildlife.

Managing director of Selbourne Homes, Gavin Warr, said: "We've been working on this scheme for a number of years so we're really looking forward to actually getting started on site."

## Scheme

"Without doubt, this will be one of the most exciting developments we have ever been involved in. Our aim is to create a scheme that looks like it was built as part of the original estate grounds and every property will have its own unique character that reflects the site's history and location."

Situated off Meadowfields Close in Wordsley, the homes have been cleverly designed to combine traditional exteriors with 21st century interiors and all the properties will be built to exacting standards by skilled craftsmen.

Properties range from cottage-style homes to two, luxury five bedroom houses which have been designed to look like a converted stable block.

In keeping with the site's heritage, there is also a gatehouse and all properties are close to local retail and leisure amenities including parkland and the canal.

Prices range from £220,000 to £300,000 and nine properties will be built in the first phase of construction which is expected to begin in June.

For further details of the properties and to register your interest phone 01562 888161.

Alternatively, go to the website at [www.selbournehomes.com](http://www.selbournehomes.com)



Selbourne Homes will be protecting and preserving Wordsley Manor

## Mews-style house 'beautifully' presented



Call Taylors estate agent for details of the house in Perrott Gardens, offers of £124,950 are being invited

**A beautifully presented and improved mews-style two bedroom home in Brierley Hill is for sale priced at £124,950.**

The property in Perrott Gardens, Clockfields, benefits from gas central heating and double glazing with accommodation briefly comprising of refitted kitchen and re-appointed bathroom.

On the ground floor the sitting room, 14ft 10in by 12ft, has a feature

brick built fireplace, raised tile hearth and gas fire while the kitchen - 9ft 5in by 5ft 10in - has a range of base and wall units.

### Extractor

In addition, the kitchen also has roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink drainer with mixer tap, four burner gas hob with electric oven below and stainless steel extractor, plumbing for automatic washing machine and further appliance space.

On the first floor are two bedrooms and a bathroom with white suite including bath with shower over and screen, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside the home is set back behind an easily manageable frontage with pebbled drive and plants and shrubs, while to the rear is a slatted patio, shaped lawn with borders, plants and shrubs.

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### HALESOWEN, NEWLANDS DRIVE

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£650 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, NEWLAND GARDENS

Spacious well situated link-detached bungalow in cul de sac position. Large lounge, fitted kitchen opening into superbly proportioned hall with conservatory overlooking private rear garden. 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, garage & driveway, gas central heating/double glazed. Available immediately. Unfurnished or furnished to suit. EPC: D

£650 PCM



### HALESOWEN, WHITTINGHAM ROAD

The best position for Newfield Primary School and Halesowen College. This large 3 bedroom semi-detached house features fitted kitchen with double oven and gas hob, utility room/storage area, huge lounge with patio doors to a nice sized rear garden, modern bathroom with 'p' shaped bath and shower, driveway parking and garage. EPC: F

£650 PCM



### HALESOWEN, HOWLEY GRANGE ROAD

A large and unfurnished semi detached house in a well sought after location, close to local primary school and ideal for access to Birmingham and featuring gas central heating. 2 living rooms, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom with shower, small rear garden, driveway parking. EPC: E

£625 PCM



### HALESOWEN, SANDERSON PLACE

Luxury living in Hayley Green. This superb luxury 1st floor apartment offers spacious accommodation including open plan lounge/kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, master with en-suite, a further well appointed bathroom with shower, gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking. EPC: B

£625 PCM



### OLDBURY, ST MATTHEWS ROAD

Refurbished to a high standard. This 3 bedroom mid-terrace property in Oldbury/Quinton area has lounge, fitted kitchen, blow air central heating, white bathroom suite with shower, separate wc, rear garden with parking. Available immediately. EPC: D

£600 PCM



### DUDLEY, STOURBRIDGE ROAD

Totally refurbished to a good standard with period features. A terraced four bedroom property close to Dudley town centre featuring a lovely entrance hall with mirror flooring, charming lounge and separate dining room with feature fireplace, large new kitchen with overhead, fully bathroom with shower and a wonderful rear garden. Viewing recommended to appreciate this property. Available immediately. EPC: F

£595 PCM



### HALESOWEN, NEW JOHN STREET

Well presented mid terrace house within walking distance to Blackheath. This large mid terrace house features 3 good sized bedrooms, gas central heating, lounge, fitted dining kitchen with range cooker, utility room, guest WC, bathroom with shower, large garden, driveway parking. EPC: D

£550 PCM



### TIPTON, PEARTREE AVENUE

Cul-de-sac location. This deceptively large 3 bedroom mid-terrace house has undergone a redecoration. It features a spacious lounge, large modern fitted kitchen, house bathroom with shower, large sized garden, driveway parking and in a quiet cul-de-sac location. EPC: C

£550 PCM



### HALESOWEN, COCKSHEDS LANE

In a convenient location near to Blackheath town centre. This 3 bedroom unfurnished semi-detached property features living room, fitted kitchen, downstairs w.c., bathroom with shower. Benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing. On road parking. Available early April. EPC: F

£550 PCM



### ROWLEY REGIS, POWKE LANE

Great value close to Blackheath town centre. A large and spacious mid-terrace unfurnished house featuring 2 reception rooms, dining room, modern fitted kitchen with cooker, downstairs bathroom with wc, 3 bedrooms (2 with fitted wardrobes), upstairs wc, gas central heating, double glazing, on road parking. A great price. EPC: D

£525 PCM



### HALESOWEN, ADAMS COURT

Conveniently located for local shops and buses to Halesowen and Stourbridge. A large and spacious ground floor apartment features modern decor and fixtures and benefits from gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen with white goods, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with separate shower cubicle, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£525 PCM



### HALESOWEN, HAGLEY STREET

Fantastic refurbishment over 2 floors. A fully refurbished modern duplex apartment above an electrical shop in the very centre of Halesowen, featuring a large open plan living area with modern fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower. Additional £40 fixed electric charge is applicable. EPC: C

£499 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Immaculately presented first floor apartment. Located on a popular development, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and local shops this 2 bedroom apartment features, light and airy lounge, with access to private balcony, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, gas central heating, bathroom with shower, allocated parking, communal garden. Available now. EPC: B

£495 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, SEEDHOUSE COURT

Set within lovely private gardens. Ideally located for Old Hill train station, local shops and buses for Cradley Heath, Halesowen and Merry Hill, a part furnished ground floor apartment featuring 2 double bedrooms, fitted kitchen with white goods, spacious lounge with sofa and dining table and chairs, house bathroom with shower, allocated parking. EPC: D

£475 PCM



### HALESOWEN, STOUR COURT

Located in a quiet desirable neighbourhood. This well kept 1st floor apartment is situated in a peaceful cul de sac. Offering a spacious living room, modern fitted kitchen with built in cooker and hob, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with fitted shower, allocated parking space. EPC: C

£475 PCM



### CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Set in the heart of Old Hill. A modern and spacious 2nd floor apartment, ideally situated for Old Hill train station and shopping in Cradley Heath. This apartment offers 1 double bedroom, fitted kitchen with washer/dryer, modern bathroom with shower, large lounge, 1 allocated parking space. An opportunity not to be missed! EPC: B

£425 PCM



### OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

Deceptively large and spacious. A split level apartment above local shops, within walking distance to bus links for Langley and Oldbury and close to J2 of the M5. Comprises gas central heating, spacious living room, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, bathroom with shower, parking to rear, with the added bonus of a porch, unfurnished. EPC: D

£400 PCM



### HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Quiet, desirable location. An unfurnished 1st floor apartment which is well presented throughout, within walking distance to Cradley Heath train station, featuring a modern fitted kitchen with small fridge, light and airy lounge, bathroom with shower, 1 bedroom with built in wardrobes, communal drying area. EPC: E

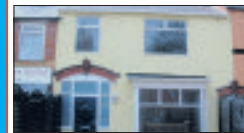
£395 PCM



### NETHERTON, BAPTIST END ROAD

An unfurnished 1st floor flat comprising living room, fitted kitchen, 1 double bedroom, bathroom with shower, electric storage heating, double glazing, parking space to rear, communal garden. EPC: D

£395 PCM



### DUDLEY, BLACKACRE ROAD

Luxury contemporary living, serviced studios 1, 4 and 5 all with shared bathroom facilities. Will include council tax, broadband, servicing, heating and hot water plus sky tv.

£395 PCM



WEBSITE:  
[www.hickshadley.com](http://www.hickshadley.com)



11 - 13 Hagley Road,  
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# Scriven & Co.

## Chartered Valuation Surveyors and Estate Agents



Quinton Ridgacre Road



An opportunity to acquire a spacious detached family house of immense character and charm and full of many unspoilt features with extensive grounds to rear and situated in popular residential locality

Porch, reception hall, cellar, fitted cloakroom, lovely lounge, former consulting room and study, spacious dining room leading to Sun Lounge, kitchen/breakfast room, utility area, five bedrooms, house bathroom, shower room, billiard room, two garages, extensive driveway parking, gas boilers heating radiators. EPC = F

**Offers in the region of £625,000**



Wombourne Sytch Lane



A super detached house with planning permission to extend and erect a 6 bedroom house within the grounds, total site area extending to 0.57 acres (0.23 hectares) hectares. Potential for alternative development, subject to planning. Brochure available upon request. EPC=E

Viewing strictly by appointment via agents 0121 422 4011.

**Offers invited in the region of £550,000**



Halesowen Greenhill Road



An impressive split level detached house with superb outlook from rear offering spacious accommodation and finished to a high specification  
Hall, inner hall, principal bedroom with balcony linked to dressing room/bed 4 & bathroom, 2 further bedroom with en-suites, ground level lower hall, fitted cloakroom, superb fitted kitchen with double doors to dining room, conservatory, lounge, gym/bed 5, sauna/steam room, utility room, double garage with electric doors. EPC=E

**Offers in the region of £500,000**



Oldbury



**Holly Road**  
\* Detached house  
\* improved and extended  
\* amazing kitchen/dining room  
\* two reception rooms  
\* four good bedrooms  
\* small garage & downstairs w.c.  
\* good sized rear garden  
\* EPC=D

**Offers in the region of £249,950**

Halesowen



**Hawne Lane**  
\* Spacious semi detached house  
\* open plan kitchen/breakfast area  
\* spacious lounge and dining room  
\* four bedrooms  
\* extensive block paved driveway  
\* double glazed windows  
\* gas boiler heating radiators  
\* EPC=D

**Offers in the region of £239,950**

Halesowen Hunnington Bromsgrove Road



An opportunity to acquire a detached family house offering spacious five bedroom accommodation and situated in a desirable residential locality with farmland to rear and close to Romsley Village. Porch, reception hall, fitted cloakroom, through living room forming lounge & dining area, conservatory, fitted kitchen/breakfast room, pantry, utility room, w.c, 5 excellent sized bedrooms (guest bedroom with ensuite), bathroom with both bath & shower, double garage with electrically operated door. Landscaped gardens. EPC=F

**Offers in the region of £455,000**



Halesowen



**Cavendish Road**  
\* Semi Detached House  
\* In Need of General Modernisation  
\* Two Reception Rooms  
\* Three Bedrooms  
\* garage  
\* EPC = D

**Offers in the region of £199,950**

Halesowen



**Southwick Road**  
\* Detached 3 bedroom house  
\* Requiring modernisation and improvement  
\* Extensive gardens  
\* Lounge and dining room  
\* Potential for extension (subject to planning & Building Regulation)  
\* Vacant possession  
\* EPC = G

**Offers in the region of £165,000**

Halesowen



**Furlong Lane**  
\* Semi detached bungalow  
\* re fitted kitchen & bathroom  
\* two bedrooms  
\* garage & off road parking  
\* pleasant rear garden  
\* no upward chain  
\* EPC = E

**Offers in the region of £139,950**

Halesowen



**Victoria Street**  
\* Mid terraced house  
\* Tastefully decorated accommodation  
\* Lounge & separate dining room  
\* Kitchen & fitted cloakroom  
\* Two bedrooms \* Shower room  
\* Enclosed gardens \* Double glazed windows \* Gas boiler heating radiators  
\* EPC = D

**Offers in the region of £115,000**

BIRMINGHAM Harborne



**18 Northfield Road**  
\* Improved mid-terraced house  
\* 3 bedrooms\* Great convenient location  
\* Stylish kitchen & bathroom suite (ground floor) \* UPVC DGW & GCH \* EPC = D  
\* Available from 1st May 2013

**Monthly rent of £650 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

Halesowen



**Lou Anne Clement Road**  
\* semi detached house\* 3 bedrooms\* most windows UPVC double glazed\* gas boiler/ radiator heating system\* tiled bathroom with shower over bath\* EPC=C

**Monthly rent of £595 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

Cradley Heath



**10 Bramble Close**  
\* Modern terraced house \* 2 bedrooms \* double glazed windows \* gas boiler/ radiator heating \* contemporary bathroom \* additional enclosed parking at rear  
Epc = c

**Monthly rent of £565 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

Halesowen



**5 Milestone Croft**  
\* Modern mid-terraced house  
\* Two double bedrooms \* Conservatory  
\* Bathroom & en-suite  
\* Fitted kitchen with oven, hob & hood  
\* Gardens & parking \* EPC = C

**Monthly rent of £550 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

Stourbridge



**Flat 3 29 New Road**  
\* Second floor flat \* One Bedroom  
\* Kitchen with some appliances  
\* Allocated parking \* Night storage heating  
\* Available Now!  
\* EPC = E

**Monthly rent of £395 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

Cradley Heath



**Flat 4 The Old Vicarage 439 Halesowen Road**  
\* First floor flat \* One bedroom  
\* Fitted kitchen \* Night storage heating  
\* Parking in communal grounds  
\* Convenient location \* EPC = F

**Monthly rent of £375 + application fee £135 (inc VAT) 1<sup>st</sup> tenant and £65 (inc VAT) each additional tenant. Deposit required of 6 weeks rent.**

0121 422 4011



www.scriven.co.uk

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# Motoring

Compiled by Motoring  
Editor Sharon Walters

## Likely to be Rapid family favourite

By Bob Hickman

**THERE** must be tens of thousands of car buyers who, when looking for a vehicle to fill their needs, simply want something that is safe and reasonably sturdy, with no frills, that gets them from A to B – and looks reasonable.

At one point I used to steer those people towards the Korean marketplace but now Skoda produces vehicles that are extremely well made, very reliable, somewhat stylish, value for money and engineered brilliantly thanks to their Volkswagen pedigree.

Arriving on the scene now is the Skoda Rapid, a small family car. Skoda have pitched it between the much smaller Fabia and the much larger Octavia.

You may be surprised to find that whilst it looks like a saloon, it is actually a five-door hatchback. The rear section lifts to reveal a huge amount of boot space.

It looks OK, but it is nothing to get excited about. You could easily lose it on a car park, so it doesn't stand out from the crowd, but it does exactly what you want from a vehicle.

The new Rapid comes with a choice of four petrol engines, my particular test derivative



The interior of the new Skoda Rapid has a no-frills look but is practical



The new Skoda Rapid has a three-trim line-up – S, SE and Elegance. Prices from £12,900

was the 1.2-litre 86PS with a five-speed manual gearbox. Skoda suggests 55.4mpg is possible on the combined cycle, I managed to achieve mid to high 40s. The CO2 emissions are quoted as 119g/km, so low excise duties will feature, free in the first year of ownership and a mere £30 afterwards. It has a top speed of 114mph and the 0-60mph can be achieved in marginally under 12 seconds.

There is also a 1.6-litre turbo diesel variant available with a 105PS. The driving dynamics of the vehicle were at all times of a solid, sensi-

ble reassuring car. I found the brakes needed a little extra pressure to bring it to a stop but it never once gave me cause for concern. I could live with the plastics and the switchgear although it isn't as refined as some.

The seating was very comfortable and there was adequate head/shoulder room for front and rear passengers.

I like the fact that Skoda has equipped the Rapid with little features like the under-front-seat storage. A clever feature in the boot is a reversible floor, you can choose between a

carpet or a rubber boot lining. So if you have a muddy football kit or dirty footwear, you can choose the rubber effect, or you just want to cosset your other items, use the carpet. In addition, there is a hook in the boot that allows you to hang the bag from the supermarket on.

The Rapid, as you would expect in 2013, is an extremely safe vehicle. It has a plethora of airbags. The Skoda Rapid is available in a three-trim option, entry level S, middle range SE which was my test vehicle and the top specification Elegance. The SE came equipped with

15in alloy wheels, body-coloured exterior mirrors and door handles and tinted glass. The vehicle also benefits from front fog lamps, a decent six-speaker sound system and the facility to connect the telephone by virtue of a Bluetooth. The range starts at £12,900 for the 1.2-litre 75PS Rapid S derivative and rises to £18,100 for the 1.6-litre TDi Elegance. Skoda's warranty package is worth looking at, it automatically covers three years or 60,000 miles and also includes a 12-year body protection warranty.

## Your essential guide to the world of motoring

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Picture for illustration purposes only

### AVEO 1.2 LS

THE 5-DOOR CITY CAR THAT'S FUN TO DRIVE

£171 PER MONTH  
NIL DEPOSIT  
60 MONTHS £10,295

- 5\* NCAP
- £30 a year road tax
- Air conditioning
- Start/Stop technology
- Electric Windows
- Cruise control



Picture for illustration purposes only



### HALESOWEN MOTOR HOUSE

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0121 462 2914

www.halesowenchvrolet.co.uk

Spark 1.0+ and Aveo 1.2 LS shown feature metallic paint at an extra cost of £425. Offer available until March 31st 2013. \*0% APR Representative. Minimum 20% deposit. Finance subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantee/Indemnity may be required. Finance by Santander Consumer (UK) plc. RHI/ISR. Offers available at participating Dealers only and not available in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all Dealer stock. Warranty expires at 5 years or 100,000 miles, whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment of a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. Years 4 and 5 are an insurance-backed warranty up to a maximum of 100,000 miles. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. 5 year warranty is available on retail registrations and at participating Dealers only. Prices correct at time of print.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Chevrolet Spark Range: Urban 42.8 (6.6), Extra Urban 67.3 (4.2), Combined 55.4 (5.1) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km. Chevrolet Aveo Range: Urban 34.0 (8.3) – 67.2 (4.2), Extra Urban 55.3 (5.1) – 85.6 (3.3), Combined 44.8 (6.3) – 78.4 (3.6), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 147 – 95g/km.



# Motoring



The Mercedes CLA offers a choice of 1.6-litre petrol or 2.1-litre diesel engines



The largely A-Class-influenced cabin fascia works well on the CLA

# Smaller Merc proved the cynics were just wrong

By Iain Dooley

IN the four-door coupe market, Mercedes has form. When it was launched, the original CLS prompted much head-scratching from the press and was dismissed by many as little more than a glamorous sideshow. Oh, how wrong they were.

For buyers seeking E-Class levels of road presence but wanting something more eye-catching than a traditional saloon, the CLS delivered in spades and was bought in droves. So, how do you expand the appeal of something like the CLS? Simple, you build a smaller one and call it the CLA.

Seeking to cause the same disruption in the compact executive saloon market, the CLA's aim is to add some much-needed glamour and, crucially, encourage younger buyers to embrace what's often viewed as an older person's brand.

Key to the CLA's appeal is that it doesn't look like a conventional Mercedes. Displaying similar design cues as the latest generation A-Class at the front and a pleasingly shapely rear, the car's appearance blends visual appeal with the ability to slice through the air more efficiently than your average small saloon – Mercedes has the numbers to prove it, too.

Rakish looks and the CLA's coupe-like profile aside, the car is different mechanically from your average Mercedes C-Class in that it's front-wheel drive.

This bucking of the premium market trend continues with power coming exclusively from four-cylinder engines – petrol and diesel – including a four-wheel drive AMG version.

UK buyers initially get a choice of a 1.6-litre 122-horsepower petrol motor badged as CLA 180 and a 2.1-litre 170-horsepower CLA 220 CDI diesel unit. Launch specification is a six-speed manual transmission for the former and seven-speed direct-shift automatic for the latter.

The CLA is a two-trim range – Sport and AMG Sport – boasting comfort and sport suspension set-ups respectively.

The reality is a car that, despite being a fraction longer than a C-Class, feels surprisingly compact on the road.

## Comfortably

The largely A-Class-influenced cabin fascia works well, especially the generously dimensioned central colour display and familiar switchgear, and there's enough room up front for two adults to sit comfortably. In the back, it's not quite the compromise you might first think.

Granted, headroom is modest for all the obvious reasons, but there's enough legroom for adults if the journey is short, yet there's plenty of space for a small but growing family. Space isn't an issue in the boot – all 470 litres of it – and there's the double bonus of folding rear seats.

Funky looks and reassuringly high levels of real-world practicality notwithstanding, the car's also got to drive well.

In front-drive guise, the CLS delivers a solid performance on a wide variety of road surfaces. The difference between comfort and sport set-up is noticeable, although it's good to know that the latter doesn't disgrace itself on poorly surfaced urban roads.

The lack of pitch and roll when travelling at speed plus above-average levels of cabin refinement can be credited to the car's well-sorted chassis and class-leading aerodynamics respectively.

And in diesel guise, a choice likely to be popular with company car drivers, the combination of low noise and ample pulling power help cement the CLA's engaging driver-focused appeal.

For the UK, Mercedes is pitching the CLA as a youthful alternative to conventional compact executive models.

As such, there's a predictable sporty theme extending past the car's model names; 18in wheels are the default size for both trim levels along with sports front seats and a chunky three-spoke steering wheel.

The icing on the cake is the car's polished road manners, which do much to banish any idea that it's a car that's abandoned substance for style.



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## Motoring

# Mazda3 models upgraded but price stays the same

**MAZDA has enhanced three of its special edition Mazda3 models with more equipment, while prices are unchanged.**

Two Venture models, one powered by a 1.6-litre petrol and the other by a 1.6 diesel, share a selection of new features, while the high-end Mazda3 Sport Nav, with a 2.2-litre diesel under the bonnet, receives a different set of extras.

The Venture duo, introduced last year, will benefit from 17in 'bright

finish' alloy wheels, rear parking sensors, black mica door mirrors and new black upholstery with contrasting red stitching. There is also the £495 option of a new exterior paint colour: Zeal Red Mica.

Prices for the enhanced models, which already had an upgraded standard specification, are unchanged, starting at £17,495 on the road for the 104bhp 1.6-litre petrol engine and rising to £18,995 for the 113bhp 1.6-litre diesel.

The Mazda3 Sport Nav can also now

count extra equipment among its benefits. Its rear light clusters have been upgraded to LEDs, and a heated windscreen adds an invaluable touch of practicality. As standard, it is powered by a 182bhp diesel engine that provides huge in-gear acceleration.

Again its price has remained static at £20,995 on the road.

Until the end of June this year, customers can choose 0 per cent finance with zero deposit and monthly payments from just £274 for a Venture and from £323 for the Sport Nav.



The Mazda 3 Venture edition brings extra equipment and a 2.2-litre diesel engine

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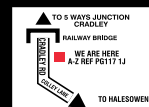
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| RENAULT MEGANE 1.5 DCI MAXIM 06 Reg 5-dr, Black, Air Con, Alloys, 70k, FSH.....                   | £3995       | 58 Reg, 5-dr, Grey, air con, alloys, sat nav, 56k, FSH £2495          |
| FIAT PANDA 1.1 ACTIVE 09 Reg, 5-dr, Red, 20k, FSH.....  | £3995       | FORD FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC   |
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| VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.4 CLUB 08 (57 Reg), 5-dr, Panacotta, Air Con, 54k, FSH.....                      | £4995       | KIA SORENTO 2.5 CRDI XE Auto  |
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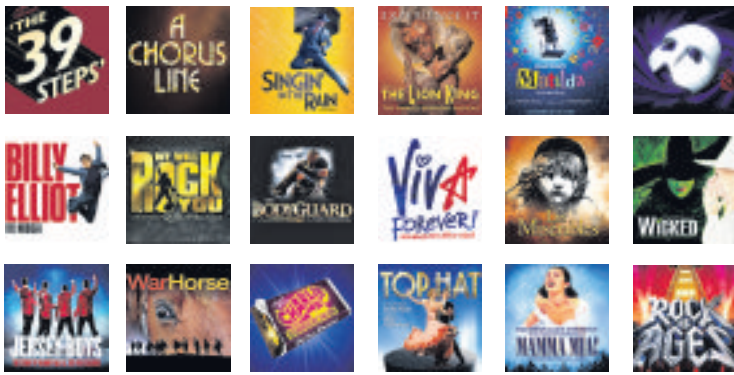
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## Penalty gains a share of the points

**Dudley Sports 2 Wolverhampton Casuals 2**  
DUDLEY SPORTS hit back to claim a West Midlands Premier point despite trailing twice.  
Sports' Sean Williams, Chris Henry and Angelo Franco had goalbound shots blocked but keeper Sam Pearson kept a 20-yard shot by Casuals' Matt Bailey out.  
Dean Clarke clipped Sports' woodwork but just before half-time Shane Priest deflected a Williams shot past Pearson.  
Casuals were denied a penalty at the start of the second half as Luke Tudor was felled in the area and Sports levelled in the 65th minute. Luke Williams hit the bar and the rebound was judged to be over the line by the assistant referee.  
From the restart, Williams headed against a Sports post. Pearson rescued Sports with a save from substitute Ray Facey and kept out a Bekir Halil header.  
Casuals led in the 79th minute as Clarke's shot took a deflection off Henry. But the home side broke Casuals' hearts in the 90th minute as Priest scored from the spot after substitute Carlo Franco had handled.

## Robins put Lockmen in further peril

**Willenhall Tn 0 Dudley Tn 3**  
DUDLEY TOWN established supremacy over their old rivals. But the defeat left Willenhall looking over their shoulders as they fight to avoid a third successive relegation.  
The Robins took the lead after just six minutes of this West Midlands Premier match when a powerful shot by Brett McGilligan beat former Dudley keeper Matt Rodgers. It was 2-0 just seven minutes later when a pinpoint cross found Tom Gadd who rounded Luke Guy and crafted a shot that left Rodgers helpless.  
Willenhall's task got tougher when midfielder Martin Hill was perhaps unfortunate to see red, following a challenge on Dudley's Ross Love.  
The Lockmen dug in but the second half was all one-way traffic.  
Dudley's third goal was beautifully taken by Geoff Hill in the 77th minute.



Steve Clarke, left, with powerchair captain Chris Gordon

# Paris target for Albion team

ALBION'S coaching team were hit for six when they tried their hand at wheelchair football in a bid to help the Baggies' successful team make it to the Champions League.  
Boss Steve Clarke and his three coaches took on Sporting Club Albion's 'powerchair' team in a special challenge match – and were beaten 6-0.  
Clarke, assistants Kevin Keen and Keith Downing and goalkeeping coach Dean Kiely pledged to donate money as a forfeit to help fund the team's trip to the Champions League in Paris in June.  
The team must raise £9,000 and Clarke and Co promised to make a

**Wheelchair football**  
donation if they lost at Albion's sports hall in Halfords Lane.  
The powerchair team, run by the Albion Foundation, qualified for the Power Champions League, which will feature the top 10 teams from across Europe, by finishing as runners-up in the WFA National Cup and third in the WFA National Premiership.  
Clarke said: "I went to watch a training session and they showed me their moves and routines. I was thinking 'I can do that' – and then they threw the challenge down."

# Rousing finale wins an ovation from fans

**Albion 1 Arsenal 2**  
ALBION produced a rousing finale which drew an appreciative ovation from their fans. Now they must do the same for their season.  
Rightly or wrongly, the sense of the region's best Premier League campaign suffering from premature fade-out is in the air, writes Martin Swain.  
Saturday's 2-1 defeat by Arsenal left the Baggies boasting only three wins in their last 13 games.  
Despite giving the Gunners a two-goal start, this was a game Albion might still have won. With Arsenal reduced to 10 men at the first sign of pressure, the contest finished with the home side racking up any number of opportunities. But they remained in eighth spot despite a second successive defeat and one point from the last nine – that is key to the problem.



Albion's Jerome Thomas skips away from two-goal Tomas Rosicky



Rosicky clears off the line to deny Albion's Claudio Yacob

**Edge**  
Albion are rock-solid stable after an incredible couple of years which have seen the club crack the top 10. That has done wonders for their long-range planning but, as their underpowered first hour against Arsenal revealed, taken the edge and intensity out of their football.  
That's why head coach Steve Clarke was keen to start discussing future targets after this defeat.  
Those targets begin with an immediate challenge to these players to hit 50 Premier League points for the first time before next season adding the one entry missing from Albion's log book of this modern era – a serious, major cup challenge.  
Albion's mid-table security may be dull but it has serious advantages. With survival never in doubt, new sporting and technical director Richard Garlick has been able to get on with the planning for what promises to be a busy summer of personnel changes.

It's a big challenge for Albion to get better within the club's natural restraints but the word is that "interesting" targets are on the list. What's more, with the stadium expansion halted and oodles of cash coming in from the new media deal, even famously-cautious chairman Jeremy Peace must concede the club can do a bit of business without risking the sober financial planning which has taken Albion this far.  
Clarke returned to his tried and trusted plan – "whenever we have played the big teams we have started with one up front this season" – and left Romelu Lukaku on the bench. This was tactical, he insisted, and nothing to do with the domestic difficulties entangling the player's family back in Belgium.  
But the change in urgency, mood and attacking threat when the rampaging Lukaku did make his entrance just after the

hour left The Hawthorns pining for what could have been. It must be acknowledged by then the game was set to its course.  
Albion had been neat and competent without truly threatening Arsenal. The visitors had taken what seemed an unshakable grip with two splendid goals by Tomas Rosicky. The first, owed much to Gervinho twisting and turning Gareth McAuley into submission to set up the chance, but the second saw Rosicky escape all markers to hit a stunning volley that Ben Foster could only parry back into his path for a simple finish. Fifty minutes gone, two-down.  
Arsenal had a lead to protect and Albion only one target to pursue – to try to rescue something, anything, from the afternoon. Whether it was this which flipped the game on its head or Clarke's more emboldened attacking set-up as he turned to his substitutes but, revitalized by Lukaku's support

for a previously-isolated Shane Long, Albion were suddenly a different team – and so were Arsenal.  
We have read much about the Gunners' brittle defending this season and The Hawthorns saw it come to the surface as the game changed in mood and tempo. Per Mertesacker had already pushed his luck by bringing down Long before a second offence on 70 minutes led to the red card and penalty – converted by James Morrison – which brought Albion within striking distance of Arsene Wenger's team.  
How they did not land a blow to at least claim equality was a source of frustration. One by one, the chances came and went. McAuley, Morrison, Lukaku and Long all failing. Oh what might have been. The ambition now must be to make sure we are not saying the same about the entire season in a few weeks time.

## Worth the Waite as Town get late goal

**Tipton Town 1 Stourport Swifts 0**  
TIPTON TOWN secured a home win over high-riding Stourport Swifts in the first visit of that club since both joined the Midland Alliance.  
Swifts, relegated to Alliance level for the 2012-13 season, have an impressive football pedigree which had helped launch them to second place in the table.  
Lewis Pountney drove wide for Stourport but Tipton quickly responded, Richard Huckfield rising highest to head Matt Martin's corner kick narrowly past the post.  
Tipton's Huckfield and Adam Wattley coped admirably with the aerial barrage. Stourport captain Mark Benbow and Jamie Willetts gave Tipton plenty of concerns.  
Matt Martin's through pass in the 68th minute opened a channel for Clark O'Connell but the wing man's drive was too high.  
Mitchell Tonks' cross was headed towards goal by Dan Dubidat with goalkeeper Haydn Whitcomb equal to the task.  
Tipton got their reward in the 80th minute. Newcomer to the fray, Nathan Waite, drove home what proved to be the winning goal from close range after Dubidat had seen his own effort turned aside by Whitcomb.  
But Tipton received a mighty scare in the dying seconds when a leaping header from Kevin Spencer smashed against the crossbar.

## The Busy Bs had chances

**Lye Town 3 Bustleholme 0**  
TWO late goals made sure of the West Midlands Premier points for Lye Town. But the table-toppers did not have it all their own way against bottom club Bustleholme.  
The Bs had chances to take the lead early on, notably through Steff Chilton and Jamie Clews. But it was the home side who broke the deadlock on 70 minutes when man of the match Reece Shivlock hit a low drive past Bustleholme keeper Sam Slater.  
Two late strikes on 88 and 90 minutes, from Ben Hadley and Richard Ainslow respectively, allowed Lye to relax but Bustleholme can look back at a much-improved performance.



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# SPORT

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**Power up**  
Baggies boss tries  
wheelchair football  
**Page 39**



**Big finish**  
Albion revival is  
not quite enough  
**Page 39**



## Tara joins top tennis talent for tour date

SPECTATORS can watch top-class women's tennis free at the Edgbaston Priory Club until Saturday.

A 25,000 dollar tournament got under way earlier this week and is the largest prize of the indoor season on the Aegon GB Pro-Series tour so far this year.

Talented young Briton Tara Moore was looking to overhaul former British no.1 Elena Baltacha in the domestic rankings. The 20-year-old was targeting a break into the world top 200.

British interests in the main draw also included wild card Anne Keothavong, together with Samantha Murray and Lisa Whybourn. They were facing a line-up which includes Grand Slam regulars Russian Ekaterina Bychkova and French former world no.60 Julie Coin.

Tournament director Sarah Wooding said the venue was set for a "great week of women's tennis".

She added: "Hopefully lots will come down to cheer the players on as admission is free of charge and it is a great chance to see some of the best up and coming players."

"We are really excited with the field of players who have entered and I can't wait for it to all get started." The doubles final takes place tomorrow (Friday) with the singles final lined up for 11am on Saturday.

## Doody just misses out

BOXER Dale Doody narrowly missed out on a spot in the national final of the senior ABA competition after coming a cropper a third time to Waleed Din.

Doody lost on a majority points decision to Din at the Everton Park Sports Centre on Sunday afternoon after three close-run rounds.

The Wednesday ABC fighter was first defeated by Din on a club show in 2011 and then in the Clubs for Young People championships a few weeks later.

The 21-year-old went on to win the ABA Novices that year.

But his dreams of a second national title have been dashed by his Sheffield Lane Top ABC rival.

Din, who won the CYPs after beating Doody in 2011, goes on to face Luqman Patel, from London's Earlsfield ABC, in the 48kg final on Saturday, April 20.



Halesowen's Jo Butler (in blue) battles for possession

## Ladies go nap at top of table

**Halesowen Town Ladies 5  
Wednesbury Wildcats 0**

HALESOWEN returned from a three-week snow and Easter break to go nap against Wednesbury.

The Yeltz are now two points clear of Rushall at the top of Birmingham County Division Two.

They dominated the opening stages with Wednesbury struggling to get out their own half.

And the Yeltz went ahead in the seventh minute when Sian Whithall scored with a low drive following a fine cross by Angie Morley.

### Football

Halesowen didn't have it all their own way, but Shel Thomas and Dominique McKee defended well before the Yeltz scored again.

Shannie Jennings' cross found captain Lyndsey Glover free to score.

The goal of the game came in the 55th minute when Glover rose high at the back post to meet Jennings' cross and head firmly into the net.

Wednesbury did break and produced a one-on-one which brought a fine one-handed save by Yeltz keeper Ashleigh

Simpson. But after that, it was all Halesowen. Morley's overhead shot struck a post before Rachel Letford scored her 50th goal of the season following good work from Becky Jones.

Glover then turned provider for Jennings, who scored and also hit a post. Wednesbury battled to the last but could not get on the scoresheet.

Yeltz manager Scott McKee was delighted with the display, adding: "Any Halesowen fan must come and watch these players play and be impressed with the pride and passion they show for the Yeltz badge."

## Six of the best for Hawks

**Oldswinford 1 Hales Hawks 6**

HALAS HAWKS under-16s reached the final of the Stourbridge League Cup following an emphatic victory against Oldswinford.

Halas were in control throughout the match and were well worth their win. Goals arrived from Reece Marks (2), Dan Willetts, Harry Martin, Mitchell Tomlinson and an own goal.

Halas are also into the semi-final of the prestigious Birmingham County Cup and are strong contenders for the league title.

Manager Ant Wilkes said: "The result will provide plenty of confidence for the players before next week's Birmingham County Cup semi-final against Gornal."

**Halas Hawks U10 West 1**

**Penn Colts U10 South 3**

Halas Hawks entertained Penn Colts and in an entertaining game, lost their unbeaten record.

Altrin Alshiqi opened the scoring. Man of the match, Anthony Andreou, stepped into the side to replace an injured George Priest.

But the second half saw Penn raise their game, eventually going on to win 3-1.

Halas had already won Division Three before play started, 15 points clear with four games to play.

## Tough weekend for racer Luke

BRIERLEY HILL motorcycle racer Luke Quigley had a challenging weekend at the opening round of the British Superbike Championship at Brands Hatch. Quigley, making a first outing for the newly-formed MH Kawasaki team, finished 18th and 17th in respective races despite bad weather preventing him from completing pre-season testing.

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# TOP PLAYER PRIZE FOR YELTZ STRIKER

**HALESOWEN star Ben Haseley is celebrating a series of accolades from the Evo-Stik Northern Premier's player awards ceremony.**

Haseley and Yeltz management committee members were among more than 300 people at the Holiday Inn, Barnsley for the big night. Halesowen's top scorer made the line-up for the Division One South team of the year, chosen by club managers.

Haseley placed third out of more than 1,200 players in the fans' player of the year award, for which voting took place online. And he topped off the night with victory in the coveted player of the year award for Division One South.

It's a high honour for Haseley - but one which he richly deserved.

The striker, who thanked fans and officials who voted for him and Yeltz supporters for their backing throughout the season, has bagged 37 goals so far this season in just 42 appearances. He is already within three goals of hitting 50 for the Yeltz. He scored 10 times at the end of the 2011/12 season after linking with Halesowen.

**Coalville Town 0  
Halesowen Town 1**

An excellent performance by depleted Halesowen inflicted the first home defeat of the season on the one-time-runaway Evo-Stik Division One South leaders.

The Yeltz were without Gavin Winsper and Naveed Arshad on Tuesday night but never looked like losing, with Coalville restricted to long shots.

Halesowen got the game's only goal in the first minute when a mistake by goalkeeper Sean Bowles saw him clear the ball into the path of Jean Michel-Gueyves who superbly volleyed home.

Just after the break, Ben

### Halesowen Town

Haseley saw a shot cleared off the line by a defender with Bowles making a save from the rebound.

Halesowen go into the home game against second-placed King's Lynn knowing they are only three points behind Sutton Coldfield in the race for the play-offs.

**Newcastle Town 2  
Halesowen Town 3**

Newcastle gained the advantage when Thomas France met an eighth-minute cross from Matt Lowe with a free header.

The Yeltz gradually settled into the game and hit back with two quickfire goals within six minutes to take a 2-1 half-time lead.

Aaron Griffiths was on hand to hook home the equaliser from 12 yards in the 32nd minute. Haseley then claimed his 37th goal of the season by heading home Mitchell Botfield's 38th-minute free-kick.

It was no surprise when a 50th minute drive from Gueyves gave them a commanding 3-1 lead. But Newcastle reduced the arrears against the run of play in the 62nd minute when slack defending let in France to score his second after an initial attempt from Jordan Cole. In a tense finish, the visiting defence held on.

## Doubles victory for Whiley in South Africa



Jordanne Whiley, right, and Lucy Shuker receive their women's doubles trophies at the Gauteng Open from Councillor Mary Goby, city councillor with the Ekurhuleni Municipality, Gauteng. Picture: Reg Caldecott

HALESOWEN'S Jordanne Whiley returns from South Africa this week on the crest of a wave.

She won the women's wheelchair tennis doubles at the Gauteng Open in Benoni, near Johannesburg, beat a member of the world's top five in reaching the singles semi-finals and has been picked to play for Great Britain in the World Team Cup.

British No.2 Whiley has subse-

quently moved up two places to No.12 in the women's singles world rankings and one spot to No.7 in women's doubles.

London 2012 bronze medalists and top seeds Whiley and Lucy Shuker eased into Saturday's women's doubles final for the loss of just two games.

They then secured a 6-1, 6-4 win over second seeds Katharina Kruger of

Germany and South Africa's Kgothatso Montjane.

Whiley went into the women's singles as fifth seed but upset second seed and world No.5 Shuker 7-5, 6-0.

But Whiley was unable to find a way past third seed Montjane in the semis and the eventual tournament winner prevailed 6-2, 6-3.

The World Team Cup is in Antalya, Turkey from May 20-26.

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